

SECOND PERIODIC
REPORT ON CAMEROON
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE AFRICAN
CHARTER ON HUMAN AND
PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Art.	Article
ATER	Teaching and Research Assistant
CA	Appeals' Court
CCPAC	Committee of Central African Police Chiefs
CEDEF	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CEEAC	Economic Community of Central African States
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
CICR	International Committee of the Red Cross
CNDHL	National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms
CNPS	National Provident Fund
CONAC	National Anti-Corruption Commission

CP	Criminal Code
COPAX	Central African Peace and Security Council
CPP	Rules of Criminal Procedure
CS	Supreme Court
DGSN	Criminal Investigations Department
PSRP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
ELECAM	Elections Cameroon
ENAP	National Prisons Academy
ESIR	Special Rapid Deployment Squads
FNE	National Employment Fund
GPX	Police Officer
FCFA	Franc of the African Financial Community
IADM	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
Jgt	Judgment
MINAS	Ministry of Social Affairs
MINATD	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization
MINJUSTICE	Ministry of Justice
MINREX	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MP	Attorney General's Department
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
ONEL	National Elections Observatory
ONG	Non-Governmental Organisation
PACDET	Programme for the Improvement of Detention conditions and respect of Human Rights
PNE	National Employment Policy
TGI	District Court
TM	Court Martial
PNDP	National Participatory Development Programme
PNG	National Governance Programme
TPI	Court of First instance
A/C	Warrant Officer Class 1
ADJT	Warrant Officer
MDL	Sergeant
G/M	Chief Gendarme
GEN	Gendarme

INTRODUCTION

1. Following the initial report defended on 5th May, 2002 in Pretoria (South Africa) during the 31st Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights as well as the first periodic report defended during the 39th Session (09-23 May, 2006) in Banjul (The Gambia), the State of Cameroon, desirous of consolidating the constructive dialogue started with the Commission, hereby presents its second periodic report covering the period 2003 – 2005. However, this report will take into account the positive measures taken by the Government in the area of promotion and protection of human rights until the date of its submission.
2. At the end of the study of the first Report, the Commission made the following recommendations to Cameroon for her to:
 - (a) Strengthen its policy on access to free compulsory universal basic education in order to eliminate gender discrimination;
 - (b) Review her prison conditions in order to make them conform to the principles of the Charter as well as international standards;
 - (c) Continue to work in close collaboration with NGOs so that the rights spelt out in the African Charter would be a reality for all her citizens;
 - (d) Pursue the promotion of the culture of respect of human rights in order to reduce the tension between Anglophones and Francophones in the society as well as encourage peaceful co-existence between various ethnic groups in the country; and
 - (e) Inform the African Commission in the next periodic report about progress made in the areas of concern mentioned above.
3. In view of the above-mentioned recommendations, this presentation, which conforms to the standard format for submitting State reports on human rights in keeping with the provisions of Article 62 of the African Charter and the general guidelines on Human and People's Rights, brings out the new measures taken and progress made to give effect to the rights recognized in this Charter. Furthermore, it indicates the factors and difficulties faced by the Cameroonian government in the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission.
4. At the socio-political level, efforts made by the Cameroonian government will be looked at in order to consolidate the democratic gains through the following:
 - The gradual establishment of institutions provided for by the Constitution (the Constitutional Council, the Audit Office of the Supreme Court, decentralization ...);

- The consolidation and improvement of the running of the structures for the promotion and protection of individual freedoms such as the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, National Elections Observatory (ONEL) and/or Elections Cameroon (ELECAM).
5. At the economic level, this presentation will review efforts aimed at conceptualizing all the policies that should underpin the economic, social and cultural development of the people. These include:
- National Governance Programme (PNG);
 - Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), and
 - National Participatory Development Programme (PNDP)
6. This report is structured in three parts as follows:
- Improvement of the legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights (Part 1);
 - Information on each right or freedom from the standpoint of the applicable articles of the Charter (Part 2), and
 - Follow-up of the recommendations (Part 3).

PART ONE: IMPROVEMENT OF THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

7. This part is made up of three chapters:
- Consolidation of the legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights (Chapter 1)
 - Gradual establishment of structures for the promotion and protection of human rights (Chapter II), and
 - Measures for the promotion and protection of human rights (Chapter III)

CHAPTER I: CONSOLIDATION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

8. The legal framework was made complete by the signing and ratification of the international instruments (Section 1) and the formulation of statutory laws and regulations (Section II)

Section I: Signing, ratification and submission of instruments for the ratification of International Conventions

9. At the global level, mention can be made of the following consolidation efforts, among others:
- Ratification, per decree No.2004/125 of 18th May, 2004, of the United Nations Convention of 15th December, 2000 against organized transnational crimes;
 - Ratification, per decree No.2004/12 of 18th May, 2004, of the Supplementary Protocol of 15th December, 2004 of the United Nations Convention against organized transnational crimes aimed at preventing, curbing and sanctioning human trafficking, particularly women and children;
 - Ratification, per decree No.2004/121 of 18th May, 2004, of the Protocol against the illegal trafficking of migrants by land, sea and air of the United Nations Convention against organized transnational crimes, adopted on 15th December, 2000 in Palermo (Italy);
 - Ratification, per decree No. 2004/010 of 18th May, 2004, the United Nations Convention against corruption, adopted on 31st October, 2003 in Merida, Mexico.
 - Ratification on 4th August, 2006 of the UNESCO Convention on the promotion and protection of the diversity of cultural expressions followed by the submission of the ratification instruments in February, 2007, and
 - Accession, on 7th January, 2005, to the Optional Protocol of 6th October, 1999 of the United Nations Convention of 18th December, 1979 on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.
10. At the regional level, mention can be made of the signing on 25th July, 2006 of the following among others:
- Protocol relating to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the establishment of an African Human and People's Rights Court, adopted on 9th June, 1998 in Ouagadougou;
 - Protocol of the African Union on the establishment of the Court of Justice of the African Union;
 - Protocol of the African Union on the prevention of and fight against corruption and related offences, adopted on 11th July, 2002 in Maputo (Mozambique), and
 - Non-aggression and Common Defence Pact of the African Union.
11. At the sub-regional level, it is proper to note the ratification, per decree No.2008/110 of 12th March, 2008, of the Convention adopted in March, 2006

on judicial cooperation between the member-States of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC).

Mention can also be made of the ratification, per decrees No.2006/049, No.2006/050 and No.2006/051 of 30th January, 2006 respectively, of the following treaties:

- Extradition agreement between member-States of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), adopted on 28th January, 2004 in Brazzaville (Congo);
- Non-aggression, solidarity and mutual assistance Pact between the member-States of CEMAC, adopted on 28th January, 2004 in Brazzaville (Congo);
- Judicial cooperation agreement between the member-States of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), adopted on 28th January, 2004 in Brazzaville (Congo), and
- Convention governing the CEMAC Parliament, adopted on 28th January, 2004 in Brazzaville (Congo).

Section II: Formulation of statutory laws and regulations

12. With regard to statutory laws, significant strides have been made. The following instruments can be listed, in particular:

- Law No. 003/2006 of 23rd April, 2006 relating to the declaration of goods and assets;
- Law No. 2006/004 of 14th July, 2006 determining the procedure for the election of regional councillors;
- Law No. 2006/005 of 14th July, 2006 determining the procedure for the election of senators;
- Law No. 2006/006 of 27th July, 2005 on the status of refugees;
- Law No. 2005/007 of 27th July, 20095 on the rules of criminal procedure;
- Law No. 2006/009 of 29th December, 2006 amending and supplementing certain provisions of Law No. 91/120 of 16th December, 1991 determining the procedures for the election of members of the National Assembly;
- Law No. 2006/010 of 29th December, 2006 amending and supplementing certain provisions of Law No.92/002 of 14th August, 1992 determining the procedures for the election of municipal councillors ;

- Law No. 2006/0011 of 29th December, 2006 on the establishment, organisation and running of Elections Cameroon;
- Law No. 2005/015 of 29th December, 2005 relating to the fight against child trafficking;
- Law No. 2006/015 of 29th December, 2006 on judicial organisation;
- Law No. 2006/016 of 29th December, 2006 determining the organisation and running of the Supreme Court;
- Law No. 2006/017 of 29th December, 2006 determining the organisation, terms of reference and management of the Regional Controller and Auditor General's Office;
- Law No. 2007/001 of 19th April, 2007 appointing the judge in the matter of execution of and determining procedures for the execution of legal writs and official documents in Cameroon as well as foreign arbitration awards;
- Law No. 2008/005 of 29th June, 2008 amending and supplementing certain provisions of.....

With regard to regulations, mention can be made of the following:

- Decree No. 2006/008 of 11th March, 2006 on the establishment of the National Anti-corruption Commission (CONAC), and
- Decree No. 2006/275 of 6th September, 2006 on the appointment of members of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (CNDHL).

CHAPTER II: INTRODUCTION OF STRUCTURES FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

13. New structures for the promotion and protection of human rights have been introduced since the submission of the first Report. These are the independent administrative authorities (Section 1) and the administrative structures (Section II):

Section I: Independent Administrative Structures:

These are the National Anti-corruption Commission (CONAC) and Elections Cameroon

Paragraph 1: National Anti-corruption Commission (CONAC)

14. The National Anti-corruption Commission (CONAC) was established per Decree No. 2006/088 of 11th March, 2006 by the President of Cameroon.

Members of CONAC were appointed on 15th March, 2007. CONAC is a public independent body which comes under the direct supervision of the Head of State. Its mission is to monitor and evaluate the effective implementation of the government's anti-corruption programme.

15. Armed with three decrees (decree No.2007/077 on the appointment of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of CONAC; decree No. 2007/078 on the appointment of the members of the Coordination Committee of CONAC and decree No. 2007/079 on the appointment of the Permanent Secretary of CONAC) signed on 15th March, 2007, the Head of State gave concrete expression to the various official declarations to set up the fight against corruption. The swearing-in of these officials on 30th May, 2008, in accordance with Article 25 of Decree No. 2006/088 above, marked the actual establishment of this State organ which is considered as the government's main instrument in the fight against corruption.
16. In August, 2007, as a prelude to the beginning of the new academic year, CONAC worked out and scheduled meetings with the educational sector as part of its information, education and sensitization mission in the fight against corruption in the sector. Thus, on 7th September, 2007, the Chairman of the Commission organized an important meeting attended by the Minister of Basic Education, the Minister of Secondary Education and the Minister of Higher Education. The cardinal objective of this meeting was the orientation and inclusion of the fight against corruption in the programmes and academic work of secondary schools.
17. To ensure that its activities are more effective, CONAC should work closely with the various departments and particularly formulate a real national anti-corruption policy.

Paragraph 2: Elections Cameroon (ELECAM)

18. ELECAM is made up of two organs: an Elections Council and an Elections Directorate. The 12-member Elections Council is tasked with seeing to the respect for the electoral law, legality, impartiality, objectivity and sincerity during elections.
19. It has the power to monitor and supervise the entire electoral process. In this regard, it receives and studies applications and publishes the final list of candidates for presidential, parliamentary, senate, regional and municipal elections.

The Elections Directorate comes under a Director-General who is assisted by a Deputy Director-General. It is tasked with the organisation and management of elections, under the supervision of the Electoral Council. This organ is particularly responsible for the compilation, management, updating and custody of the voters' register as well as electoral materials and documents.

20. Article 1(2) and (4) of the above-mentioned law stipulates that ELECAM is an independent body. It enjoys independence at management level. It is

provided with an annual budget as well as an election budget in an election year. The authorizing officer of this budget is its Director-General. To guarantee the independence of its members and to safeguard their integrity, the law provides as follows: *“Members of Elections Cameroon” shall refrain from any act that can compromise their independence and dignity in the discharge of their duties. They shall, particularly during their tenure, not use their office for motives other than those relating to the discharge of their functions.*

In the discharge of their duties, members of “Elections Cameroon” shall under no circumstance whatsoever request or receive any instruction from public or private entities.

Members of “Elections Cameroon” shall not be threatened, sought after, arrested, detained or tried for opinions they express in the course of their duties. Except for flagrante delicto situations, legal action shall not be instituted against members of “Elections Cameroon” in the discharge of their duties”.

21. Similarly, Article 8(2) provides that: “Members of the Electoral Council shall be of Cameroonian nationality whose selection shall be based on their competence, moral integrity, intellectual honesty, sense of patriotism as well as their sense of neutrality and impartiality”.
22. The oath sworn by members of the Electoral Council before they take office further reflects the determination of Cameroon’s legislators to ensure the independence of “Elections Cameroon”. Thus, in keeping with Article 8(6), “Before taking office, members of the Electoral Council take the following oath before the Constitutional Council: ***“I hereby swear to discharge my duties properly, faithfully and impartially in accordance with the Constitution and existing laws, keep deliberations and voting secret and not to accept any public position, not to provide any consultancy on issues that fall within the competence of Elections Cameroon”.***
23. The establishment of this organ will enhance transparency and equity in all elections that will be held in Cameroon. Its members were appointed on 30th and 31st December, and the swearing-in of its members on 28th January, 2009 marks the final phase of its operationalisation.

Section II: Administrative Structures

24. These are the Special Division for the Monitoring of Services and the Directorate of Human Rights and International Cooperation.

Paragraph I – Directorate of Human Rights and International Cooperation of MINJUSTICE

25. The Directorate of Human Rights and International Cooperation was established by Decree No.2005/112 of 15th April, 2005 on the organisation of the Ministry of Justice. It is tasked with the following:

- Follow-up of issues relating to human rights in general;
 - Follow-up of the application of international conventions relating to human rights, and
 - Information and sensitization of the staff of the judicial services and prisons administration on standards governing the protection of human rights.
26. Since its establishment, it has, among other activities, prepared three reports on the status of human rights in Cameroon for 2005, 2006 and 2007 and supervised the preparation of periodic reports to be submitted to the United Nations organs responsible for the implementation of conventions relating to human rights as well as the National Report in respect of the universal periodic study of the Human Rights Council.

Paragraph 2 – Special Division for Monitoring of Police Services, also known as the “Police’s Police” of the Criminal Investigations Department (DGSN)

27. A Special Division for the Monitoring of Police Services was established by Decree No. 2005/065 of 23rd February, 2005 within the DGSN. “It shall ensure the policing of the Police” (Article 1, Paragraph 2 of the Decree).

It shall be tasked to:

- Carry out civil or public inquiries as well as inquiries into ethical issues;
 - Ensure the protection of confidentiality, the state of mind, morale, loyalty of the staff of the Criminal Investigations Department;
 - Take active part in the fight against corruption;
 - Contribute to the enhancement of discipline and respect of ethics in the Criminal Investigations Department; and
 - Expedite public and judicial inquiries concerning staff of the Criminal Investigation Department.
28. Without prejudice to the terms of reference of each official of the department with regard to discipline, it shall be tasked to prevent all forms of brutality, any behaviour and act that can affect legality, conduct, duty, honour and probity, committed while on duty or off duty” (Article 2).

Since its establishment, this division has carried out several inquiries that have led to various administrative sanctions and penalties against police officers.

CHAPTER III: MEASURES TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

Both measures for the promotion and protection of human rights will be examined.

SECTION I: MEASURES TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

29. These measures revolve around those relating to human rights education, promotion and training as well as the popularization of the rules of criminal procedure (CCP).

Paragraph 1: Measures to ensure human rights sensitization and training

30. In essence, these activities are presented as follows:
- Forwarding in January, 2006 to the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, Cameroon's report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report by Sir. Nigel Rodley, former Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment following his visit to Cameroon;
 - Holding in Yaoundé on 22nd and 23rd March, 2006 of two seminars on "the Independence of the Judiciary" and "the fight against corruption" organized by the Commonwealth for Justices of the Supreme Court, heads of the Appeal's Courts and Directors of the Ministry of Justice;
 - Holding in Yaoundé from 8th to 11th May, 2006 of a seminar on the "incorporation of human rights into the training programme" for CID Officers and personnel of Prisons Services;
 - Defence of Cameroon's first periodic report within the framework of the ACHPR during its 39th Session held in Banjul (The Gambia) from 9th to 23rd May, 2006;
 - Holding in Yaoundé from 24th to 25th May, 2006 of the West African Symposium by the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MUNREX), the Ministry of Women's and Family Affairs (MINPROFF) and the Cameroonian Association of Women Lawyers (ACAFEJ) under the theme: "**Gender Culture and Law**" in November, 2008;
 - Defence in January, 2009 within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination against women in Geneva;
 - Defence of Cameroon's National Report within the framework of the global periodic study of the United Nations Human Rights Council on 5th February, 2009;
 - Validation and forwarding of Cameroon's periodic reports within the framework of the following:
 - United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination

- United Nations Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading forms of punishment;
 - International pact on civil and political rights, and
 - International pact on economic, social and cultural rights.
- Visit to Cameroon from 9th to 10th June, 2008 of Me. Reine Alapini Ngansou, Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights on Human Rights Defenders in Africa
 - Holding in Cameroon from 13th to 16th September, 2006, in partnership with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, of the "Regional Sensitization Seminar on the rights of indigenous peoples and communities in Central Africa.
 - Holding in Yaoundé from 4th to 6th December, 2006 of a seminar on: "Transitional Justice in the French-speaking world" jointly organized by the United Nations Sub-regional Centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs; followed by two sub-regional seminars for the training of trainers;
 - Holding in Yaoundé from 6th to 7th December, 2006 of a workshop for the operationalisation of the United Nations anti-corruption convention;
 - Holding of a human rights training workshop from 15th – 16th October, 2008 by the CNDHL for magistrates, lawyers and the police, and
 - Translation by the clergy of the CPP into the local languages, particularly Fulfuldé

Paragraph 2: Popularization of the rules of criminal procedure

32. Law No. 2005/007 on the rules of criminal procedure was promulgated on 25th July, 2005. This legislation which has become part of Cameroonian law has deep innovations in the area of human rights protection which must be known and shared both by the general public and the main actors in the criminal justice distribution chain.

In 2006, ownership of these rules by the various actors before their coming into force constituted a priority for the authorities and was the subject of two popularization campaigns under the auspices of the MINJUSTICE.

A. First popularization campaign

33. The first popularization campaign was launched on 3rd May, 2006 at the Palais des Congrès and ended in Douala on 31st May, 2006. It was characterized by popularization seminars. The seminar was mainly structured into presentations on popularization including one on the simulated process.

34. Six papers corresponding to the six volumes of the Rules were delivered at each stage. They were followed by fruitful exchanges. The conference hall was mainly made up of the administrative authorities, elected local representatives, religious and traditional authorities, CID officers, the entire judiciary and members of civil society.

B. Second CPP popularization campaign

35. The 2nd phase of the CPP popularization campaign took place between 28th August and 22nd September, 2006 throughout the country. This phase which was more technical had the major objective of enabling the various participants to improve their understanding of the rules and the fashioning out of synergies and interactions necessary for a smooth implementation of this important law, upon its coming into force.
36. The principle arrived at was that departments should hold seminars, with the possibility of including several related departments. From 28th August to 22nd September, 2006, forty-six (46) seminars took place simultaneously throughout the country. At every stage, a set of leaflets containing essential provisions of the rules were given to each participant.
37. The seminars were held over five (5) days. Sixteen (16) papers structured around eight (8) modules were presented on the following themes:
- The CID authorities and their relations with the legal authorities;
 - Investigations of the Criminal Investigations Department;
 - Execution of writs and rulings by the Criminal Investigations Department;
 - On-the-spot fines and relations between the Public Prosecutor's Department and the examining magistrates;
 - Setting the prosecution in motion, the role of the Public Prosecutor's Department in Court;
 - Role of the Public Prosecutor's Department in the execution of writs and rulings, seisin;
 - Competency of examining magistrates and pre-trial proceedings, nullity of pre-trial proceedings and remedies for revoked proceedings;
 - Proceedings before courts of first instance;
 - Remedies for judgments and nolle prosequi;
 - Role of the Clerk of the Court in criminal trials;
 - Involvement of the Prisons authorities in the application of the CPP;
 - Administration of justice for minors, and
 - The other specific proceedings.

38. Furthermore, to propose legislation or report back on the work of the heads of the Appeal's Courts based on the evaluation of the implementation of the rules of criminal procedure, popularization campaigns were organized at the regional and departmental levels.
39. Every human endeavour is subject to improvement and due to the fact that the implementation of the various regulations by the Courts will be full of pitfalls – as incidentally was revised by some participants during the popularization campaign, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice has set up an Observatory tasked with the monitoring of the application of the CPP, the law on judicial organizations and the subsequent laws relating to Cameroon's legal system. One of the main concerns of this observatory will certainly be to identify the initial trends in the application of the CPP and the degree of applicability of this important tool for the protection of the rights of persons that fall within the competence of Cameroonian courts.

Paragraph 3: Human rights education

40. Beyond the synergy identified between the Government and civil society with regard to teaching in the area of human rights and international humanitarian law provided in the training schools of key personnel responsible for the application of the law (gendarmerie, police, prisons and judicial authorities) note should be taken of the initiatives rolled out by the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (CNDHL).

A. Actions carried out by the CNDHL

41. In 2006, the CNDHL carried out actions aimed at promoting human rights. The most significant ones were the formulation of an educational journal for human rights education in Cameroon (a) and the formulation of the first draft of the national plan of action for the promotion and protection of human rights in Cameroon (b).

1. Formulation of the educational journal for human rights education

42. The CNDHL designed a formal human rights educational programme for all levels in Cameroon (primary, secondary, tertiary, professional training schools as well as defence and related forces) through the formulation of a teacher's educational journal. This process presents the following thrusts:
 - Validation of the educational journal at a workshop held in Yaoundé from 7th to 9th February, 2006;
 - Canvassing for ownership of the educational journal by the Cameroonian authorities and some agencies of the United Nations system undertaken by the Chairman of CNDHL and some of its members between 19th July and 31st August, 2006; and

- Holding of workshops for the training of trainers (particularly education and locally-based education inspectors) of the Ministry of Basic Education (18 – 19 December, 2006) and the Ministry of Secondary Education (20 – 21 December, 2006) as well as another one in December, 2008 on the use of the Educational Journal.

2. Formulation of the first draft of the national plan of action for the promotion and protection of human rights in Cameroon

43. Resource persons representing the public service and civil society organizations formulated the first draft of the plan of action for the promotion and protection of human rights in Cameroon. This document aims at incorporating the human rights approach into all activities involving the government, civil society and donors. The document which was pre-validated during a workshop includes the following:

- National capacity building in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Coordination of activities carried out by the various actors in the human rights promotion and protection chain;
- Need to incorporate the human rights-based approach into all sectors of national life, and
- Promotion of a global rights vision and the involvement of all social entities.

This plan of action which has already been validated will be subsequently approved by the political authorities.

SECTION II: HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION MEASURES

44. These measures are preventive and deterrent in nature.

Paragraph 1: Preventive measures: dynamics of the improvement of prison and working conditions

45. One may recall the significant efforts made by the government during the period 2003 – 2005.

An amount of FCFA 112,900,000¹ was invested in the rehabilitation of the following prison facilities

- Nkambe main prison: construction works: FCFA 10,000,000²;
- Fundong main prison: construction works and rehabilitation: FCFA 25,000,000³;
- Ndop main prison: construction works and rehabilitation: F construction works CFA 10,000,000⁴; and
- Moulvoudaye minor prison: construction of the new prison: FCFA 10,000,000⁵

46. In 2005, the investment budget of the Prisons Service of FCFA 148,000,000 facilitated the rehabilitation of some prison facilities, including the Yaoundé main prison.
47. In 2006, the entire investment budget for the sector stood at FCFA 267,200,000. This budget mainly had to do with construction works and rehabilitation of the following prison facilities:
- Ngaoundéré central prison: FCFA 14,000,000⁶;
 - Yaoundé central prison: FCFA 4,000,000;
 - Bertoua central prison: FCFA 8,500,000;
 - Mora main prison: FCFA 22,000,000⁷
 - Mokolo main prison: FCFA 3,000,000;
 - Makari minor prison: FCFA 8,500,000
 - Douala central prison: FCFA 69,200,000
 - Mbengwi main prison: FCFA 13,000,000⁸
 - Bazou minor prison: FCFA 14,000,000⁹; and
 - Ambam minor prison: FCFA 8,000,000
48. In 2007, these efforts were made particularly with the rehabilitation of the following prison facilities:
- Sangmélima main prison: FCFA 25,000,000
 - Edéa main prison: FCFA 15,000,000
 - Moulvoudaye minor prison: FCFA 25,000,000
 - Mora main prison: FCFA 8,500,000, and
 - Yaoundé central prison: FCFA 51,000,000
- 49.1 In 2008, the Yaoundé main prison with a capacity of 300 inmates became operational.
- 49.2 With regard to the high number of remand prisoners, it should be stated that the population of prisoners is increasing as a result of pressures arising out of several phenomena: galloping population growth rate, increase in urban delinquency, etc. All the countries of the world are facing these phenomena. Cameroon is no exception. Existing structures are very inadequate and often unsuitable.
50. Nevertheless, Government reacted by establishing new Courts and increasing the number of court rooms in the big cities like Douala and Yaoundé. The increases in the number of staff (judges and clerks) facilitated the redeployment of legal personnel, thereby speeding up the handling of cases in general and remand cases in particular.
51. As part of the 8th European Development Fund, the Government of Cameroon and the European Union signed an agreement for the “Programme for the Improvement of Detention Conditions and the Respect of Human Rights” (PACDET) on 18th July, 2001. “PACDET 1” was signed in June, 2002 between the European Union and Cameroon. It aimed at improving prison

and judicial administration and, more specifically, the reduction in maladministration and abuses related to prisoners on remand in the Douala and Yaoundé central prisons. This 1,000,000 Euro financing agreement expired on 31st December, 2005.

52. The positive results posted helped the authorities to consider the extension of the project to the ten (1) central prisons with the signing of a second 8 million Euro “PACDET II” agreement between the same partners on 19th December, 2006. This programme aims at basically improving detention conditions to ensure respect for human rights in the ten central prisons concerned. The 4-year programme took off in the first semester of 2007 and full implementation is scheduled for 31st December, 2010 at the latest. The expected outcomes are a significant improvement in the conditions of the judicial and prison institutions in the project areas and the improvement in detention conditions in Cameroon’s ten central prisons facilities. The two activity components are as follows:

(a) *“Improvement of the running of judicial and prison institutions” component.*

This component is made up of the following actions:

- CPP implementation support;
- Support for brainstorming on alternative forms of punishment and their implementation;
- Improvement in the running of judicial institutions;
- Support for the formulation and implementation of a continuous training and post-training programme, and
- Legal assistance to prisoners and establishment of provincial legal centres.

(b) *“Improvement of detention conditions” component*

This component is made up as follows:

- Support for the improvement in the feeding of prisoners;
- Support for the prevention and treatment of diseases;
- Construction of a new medical centre in the Yaoundé central prison
- Support for the improvement in infrastructure;
- Promotion of the social reintegration of prisoners;
- Support for the improvement in the running of prison institutions, and

- Strengthening of supervision and monitoring of the conditions of remand prisoners.
53. Note should also be taken of the introduction of the “Project for the modernization of prisons and preparation of prisoners for social reintegration” financed by the fund created by the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (IADM).

With budget of FCFA 3,931,780,000¹⁰, this project which took off in 2008 will ensure the following

- Construction of six new prisons with an inmate capacity of 300 each
 - Rehabilitation of 24 existing prisons;
 - Construction of 12 fully operational boreholes;
 - Procurement of 8 prison vans, and
 - Creation of productive and training activities in 60 main and minor prisons.
54. Anytime the authorities noticed an increase in the population of prisoners in a given prison, a decongestion process was instituted through the transfer of actual prison convicts to less populated prisons.

55.1 However, these efforts are constrained by the development and adjustment problems that Cameroon is facing.

55.2 In order to make detention conditions more humane, Government, with the help of a few development partners, has instituted a certain number of measures aimed at improving the treatment of prisoners, particularly in the areas of health coverage, feeding and classification of prisoners.

56. With regard to health coverage, actions instituted dealt with the following:
1. Recruitment of medical and Para-medical staff;
 2. Opening of small laboratories in the infirmaries of the Douala and Yaoundé prisons;
 3. Establishment of a budgetary item for each prison for the procurement of medicines for prisoners (for 2008, the total budget allocated for this line of expenditure was FCFA 85,413,000¹¹);
 4. Introduction of an anti-HIV/AIDS programme in the big prisons (screening and care for the sick);
 5. Introduction of an anti-tuberculosis programme in the Yaoundé and Douala central prisons, and

6. Equipping the central prisons with medical materials and consumables as well as essential products.
57. In the area of feeding, Government has, since the 2006 financial year, doubled the food rations served to prisoners. Consequently, the annual budget for the feeding of prisoners has increased from FCFA 900,000,000 in 2005 to FCFA 1,800,000,000 since the 2006 financial year. Similarly, the PACDET II project and the project for the modernization of the prisons and preparations towards the social reintegration of prisoners took off in 2008 with the launch of agricultural activities in all the prisons in order to enhance the feeding of prisoners.

Paragraph 2: Deterrent measures

58.1 These are administrative and disciplinary measures taken by the police, the gendarmerie and the prison authorities.

Measures taken by the Police

58.2 Sanctions taken against Police Officers are summarily presented in the tables below for years 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008:

No.	Surname and other Names, Rank and Department	Occurrences at Date of Offence	Decision No.	Duration of suspension
01	MOTAZE Jean Paul CPP - DPSN/ Littoral	Blatant negligence: 13/04/05, gave out a service weapon used in killing a peace officer	No. 00033 of 18/04/05	03 months
02	TANG ENOW Lawrence CP-SP LIMBE	Gross carelessness: 07/04/05, killed someone during a police operation	No. 00028 of 11/04/05	03 months
03	AKOMEZOA AFANDA CP-DGNS	Carelessness: 09/3/2004, inflicted a bullet wound on a citizen	No. 00118 of 03/05/05	03 months
04	ATANGANA Jean L GPX- GMI N°1 Ydé	Gross carelessness: night of 08 to 09/04/05, shot and killed a citizen	No. 00032 of 11/04/05	03 months
05	NSILI Serges Hermery GPX –GMI N°1/Ydé	Gross carelessness: night of 08 to 09/04/05, shot and killed a citizen	No. 00031 of 11/04/05	03 months
06	OSSOBO Benoît GPX- GMIN°1 /Ydé	Gross carelessness: night of 08 to 09/04/05, shot and killed a citizen	No. 00030 of 11/04/05	03 months
07	ONDONGO Denis Serges	Gross carelessness: night of 08 to 09/04/05, shot and killed a citizen	No. 00029 of 11/04/05	03 months

	GPX- GMI N°1 /Ydé			
08	Toudo Djomo Hervé GPX- GMI N° 2	Gross carelessness: night of 16 – 17/04/05, killed a service colleague	No. 00034 of 18/04/05	03 months
09	AMOULOU MVONDO R OP2-SP Aéroport/Ydé	Gross negligence: unwanted revocation of documents, 27/06/05	N° 005/02 of 12/08/05	03 months
10	MVE OBAMA Timote OPI-DPJ	Carelessness and taking possession of seized items in the night of 24 – 25/05/05	N° 00324 of 07/07/05	03 months
11	ENGOLO Alfred OPI SP Aéroport/Ydé	Gross negligence: unwarranted revocation of documents and seizure of items 27/06/05	N° 00503 of 12/05/05	03 months
12	ABESSOLO Roger OPI SP Aéroport/Ydé	Gross negligence: unwarranted revocation of documents and seizure of items 27/06/05	N° 00505 of 12/08/05	03 months
13	Robertson Serge S IP-DFGIL	Carelessness and taking possession of objects seized in the night of 24-25/05/05	N° 00329 of 07/07/05	03 months
14	ONGUENE Lazare Alain IPI-DST	Carelessness and taking possession of objects seized in the night of 24-25/05/05	N° 00325 of 07/07/05	03 months
15	NSI Nadège Carole IPI-SP 15 ART/Ydé	Carelessness and taking possession of objects seized in the night of 24-25/05/05	N° 00322 of 07/07/05	03 months

Source :DGSN

N°	SURNAME AND FIRST NAME	RANK	Offences and Dates committed	sanctions
01	FOTSO Jean Pierre	OPI	Poor use of a weapon, 14/12/00	One year delay in promotion
02	EYETE ZO'OBO Edouard	IPI	Illegal use of a weapon 14/07/00	One year delay in promotion
03	MFOUMOU Richard Collins	IPP	Violence and assault on a person sent to the station	Reprimanded
04	YIWE MUSA	IPI	Unauthorized revocation of the documents of a third party 12/07/01	Reprimanded

05	SIWO Japhet	IPI	Violent attack of a person brought to the station on 05/12/01	Reprimanded
06	ESSOMBA BOMA Joël	IPI	Violent attack on a person brought to the station on 07/12/01	Reprimanded
07	MOUKOURI BILONG Marcel	IPI	Violent attack of a person brought to the station, 30/10/97	Reprimanded
08	YAMB Née EKEDI Julienne	GPXI	Violent attack and assault of a person brought to the station, 30/10/02	Reprimanded
09	SABOA Jules François	GPX2	Violent attack and assault of a person brought to the station, 30/10/02	One year delay in promotion
10	EBOZOA Benoît	GPX2	Violent attack and assault of a person brought to the station, 20/07/02	One year delay in promotion
11	DJIBRIL GARBA	CPP	Violent attack of a third party, 29/12/01	Reprimand
12	MBOULA David	GPX2	Illegal use of a firearm	One year delay in promotion
13	LAFON Emmanuel	IPI	Violent attack and assault of a person brought to the station of a policeman, 06/12/01	Reprimanded
14	MBOZO'O Armand Thierry	GPXI	Violence and taking possession of an item belonging to someone else, 30/09/04	10 days suspension
15	NTAMACK Daniel	GPX1	Illegal use of a weapon, 08/10/03	Reprimanded
16	NZAKAKAMANG Marcel B.	GPX1	Illegal use of a weapon 08/10/04	Reprimanded
17	MVONDO Betty	GPX1	Assault of a policeman 02-03/01/05	Reprimanded
18	ALAH Stanley EWANE	GPX1	Revocation of documents of a third party, 31/07/04	Reprimanded
19	ATANGANA André Roger	IP1	Revocation of documents of a third party 23/12/04	8 days suspension
20	BETTY BETTY Léopold	GPX	Fighting with a third party, 20 – 21/02/05	Reprimanded
21	NGOMOU	GPX1	Illegal use of a firearm	20 days

	Théophile			suspension
22	ELOUNDOU Vincent B.	GPX1	Illegal use of a firearm	20 days suspension
23	MANGUELE Jean David	GPX2	Violence attack and assault of a road-user	10 days suspension
24	MINLEUS Jean Calvin	GPX2	Violence attack and assault of a road-user	20 days suspension
25	TAMBE BISONG Samuel	IP1	Assault of a colleague	Reprimanded
26	BOBA John	IP1	Assault of a third party	20 days suspension
27	TCHOKWI Jean	IP1	Refusal to obey instructions	Reprimanded
28	MENGOLO MENGOLO Cyrille	IP1	Illegal use of a firearm, 09-10/03/02	Reprimanded
29	EKOUMA Fils François	OP1	Violent attack of a person brought to the station, 09-10/06/05	Reprimanded
30	EMBOLO Fidèle	GPX1	Violent attack of a person brought to the station, 30-31/01/06	15 days suspension

N°	SURNAME AND FIRST NAME	UNIT	OFFENCES AND DATES COMMITTED	PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN
1.	OBAME OBAME Jean Michel Chief Superintendent of Police	No.1 Mobile Force, Central, Yaoundé	Grave and habitual negligence in discharge of duties, blatant refusal to obey instructions over the period July – September, 2007	Three months suspension
2.	TCHANJI Amos TANWORONG Chief Superintendent of Police	Buea Central Police Station	Grave and habitual negligence in discharge of duties, persistent and continuous unwillingness to work and insolence to a superior officer, 27/07/07 and in the night of 11 to 12 August, 2007	Three months suspension

3.	BEKOM ESSOMBA François Alexandre, Superintendent of Police	Mbalmayo Police Safety Station	Illegal use of a service weapon leading to the death of a human being, Mbalmayo, on the night of 16- 17 May, 2007	Three months suspension
4.	AMOUGOU ATANGANA Moïse , Superintendent of Police	Special Station, Douala International Airport	Gross carelessness and dishonourable conduct injuring the reputation of the Police by extorting money from road-users, 21 st February, 2007	Three months suspension
5.	OWONA ASSIGA Luc Roger Superintendent of Police	CID Headquarters	Gross negligence in discharge of duties by being an accomplice in the escape of a detainee, 20 th February, 2007	Three months suspension
6.	ESSAMA Patrice Superintendent of Police	Special Highway Police Station	Non-observation of instructions and negligence leading to the destruction of a service vehicle, 17 th February, 2007	Three months suspension
7.	MONGOLO ONDOUA Guy Béatrice Inspector	Special station, Douala International Airport	Gross carelessness and dishonourable conduct injuring the reputation of the Police by extorting monies from road-users	Three months suspension
8.	SAMBA NDONGO Innocent Bernadin Constable	Sub-Division – Recruitments and Monitoring	Gross carelessness and dishonourable conduct injuring the reputation of the Police by staging an armed gang attack on a vehicle being used as a taxi,	Three months suspension

			12 th February, 2007	
9.	NJOCK NANG Ambroise inspector	Ambong- Mbeng Police Safety Station	Disregard for instructions in discharge of duties and gross carelessness, injuring the reputation of the CID, on the night of 29 to 30 December, 2006	Three months suspension
10.	MIANZUH ETOME Inspector	Ambong- Mbeng Police Safety Station	Disregard for instructions in discharge of duties and gross carelessness	Three months suspension
11.	EVOUNG NDOUM Timothée inspector	Ambong- Mbeng Police Safety Station	Disregard for instructions in discharge of duties and gross carelessness	Three months suspension
12.	YAYA MOHONDE, Superintendent of Police	Public Safety Station, City of Yaoundé (No.14)	Gross negligence in discharge of duties, leading to the destruction of a Toyota minibus Hiace Service vehicle, on the night of 20 th January, 2007	Three months suspension
13	AYISSI NDOMO Raymond Superintendent of Police	Yaoundé Station (No.1)	Gross negligence in discharge of duties, leading to the destruction of a Toyota minibus Hiace service vehicle, on the night of 26 th January, 2007	Three months suspension

Source : DGSN

N°	SURNAME AND FIRSTNAME	UNIT	OFFENCES AND DATES COMMITTED	PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN
1.	Etoundi Longin Chief Inspector	Provincial HQ/CID, Eastern Bertoua	Acts of carelessness injurious to the	3 months suspension

			reputation of the Police through the extortion of funds to the detriment of his service colleague and a third party, May and September, 2006	
2.	Adama Monglo Inspector	Police Safety Station, 6 th District, Yaoundé	Acts of carelessness injurious to the reputation of the Police by fraudulently taking away an item being used for an official investigation, July, 2008	Three months suspension
3.	Meyomesse Dieudonné Corporal	Division of Sports and Community service (Music Department)	Acts of carelessness injurious to the reputation of the Police through the extortion of monies to the detriment of his service colleague, August, 2006	Three months suspension
4.	Semen Semen Séverin Arsène Corporal	Mobile Police of the North-Eastern Region, Bamenda	Ungentlemanly conduct, gross insubordination, blatant unwillingness to work, habitual and systematic absenteeism	Three months suspension
5.	Zeh Doua Jules Patrick Corporal	Operations Unit, Counterintelligence Section, Foubam	Ungentlemanly conduct, gross insubordination, habitual absenteeism	Three months suspension
6.	Oleme Guy Corporal	Central Mobile Police	Disregard for instructions for his participation in an unauthorized patrol and use of a cheval-de-frise, thereby causing physical damage to a road-user, occurred at Nkoabang on the night of 30-31/7/08	Three months suspension
7.	Menzou Simon Chief Superintendent	Eastern Regional Head of CID, Bertoua	Gross acts of carelessness in discharge of duties and diversion of seized goods, 17 th January, 2008	Three months suspension
8.	Onana Mekong Félix Chief Inspector	Head of Records, Counterintelligence Section	Disregard for instructions, non-compliance with orders, misplaced focus, ungentlemanly conduct towards a superior	Three months suspension

			officer, persistent unwillingness to work, inciting indiscipline and disregard for rules, March, 2008	
9.	Atangana Pierre Noël Corporal	Special Station, Kadey, Batouri	Persistent unwillingness to work, revolt and rebellion, inciting indiscipline and disregard for rules (offences committed through refusal to serve out a two-week suspension handed him per disciplinary decision No. 0278/DGSN/CAB/DSCS of 19/11/2007)	Three months suspension
10.	Ndam Ibrahim Inspector	CID Headquarters	Carelessness and gross insubordination injurious to the reputation of the Police through the unlawful arrest of a refugee, 8 th October, 2008	Removed from the Senior Staff of the CID and loss of pension
11.	Ndam Amadou Corporal	CID Headquarters	Carelessness and gross insubordination injurious to the reputation of the Police through the unlawful arrest of a refugee, 8 th October, 2008	Removed from the Senior Staff of the CID and loss of pension
12.	Etim Rose Enewan Lieutenant	Police Hospital, Yaoundé	Extortion of goods belonging to a third party, committed in 2004 and October, 2006	Three months suspension
13	Fouda Yene Lucien Corporal	Border Police Headquarters	Extortion of monies, committed in 2007 and 2008	Three months suspension
14	Oumarou Moussa Chief Inspector	Public Safety Station, 9 th District, Douala	Acts of carelessness observed in discharge of duties as a sworn officer dealing with road accident statements, committed in January 2005 and May, 2007	Three months suspension
15	Ngouot Soulankand	Southern Mobile Police, Ebolowa	Extortion of monies and blatant insubordination,	Three months suspension

	Samuel Chief Inspector		committed in July, 2004, November, 2007 and May, 2008	
16	Efagon Armand Dicko Aristide Inspector	CID Human Resource Department, HQ	Blackmail, fraud, racketeering and extortion of monies to the detriment of expatriates, 22 nd August, 2008	Three months suspension
17	Emini François Noël Bertrand Lieutenant	CID Human Resource Department, HQ	Blackmail, fraud, racketeering and extortion of monies to the detriment of expatriates, 22 nd August, 2008	Three months suspension
18	Mbeleck Mbang Philippe Corporal	Police Station, Yaoundé International Airport	Extortion of funds in discharge of duties, committed in 2007 and 2008	Three months suspension
19	Cheka Samson Manah Corporal	Public Security (Dept. of Protection Division)	Extortion of monies from ordinary passport applicants, committed in October 2007 and July, 2008	Three months suspension
20	Ngale Bille Ngeke Joseph Corporal	Public Security Division, CID HQ	Extortion of monies from ordinary passport applicants, committed in December, 2007	Three months suspension
21	Kalla Nsombo Alfred Corporal	Diplomatic Corps Protection Unit, CSD, CID HQ	Extortion of monies from ordinary passport applicants, committed in October, 2007	Three months suspension
22	Nlong Jean Daniel Inspector	National Police Academy, Yaoundé	Gross, persistent carelessness in private life, ungentlemanly conduct and blatant insubordination, committed in August, 2007 and January, 2008	Three months suspension

Source : DGSN

Measures taken by the National Gendarmerie

59. A few cases where sanctions have been applied as shown below also attest to the fact that impunity has not gone unchecked.

No.	Surname and First name	Unit	Offences and Dates of Occurrences	Sanctions applied
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01	ADJT NJIENJOU Emmanuel	Banyo Brigade	Swindling and attempted swindling of persons coming from Nigeria 18/10/2007	20 days close arrest
02	ADJT Bruno BETAMO	Djohong Brigade	Extortion of an amount of FCFA 600,000 from three refugees from Central African Republic on 11/09/07	20 days close arrest; garrisoned
03	MDL Vincent SIGALA NGUTI	Djohong Brigade	Extortion of an amount of FCFA 600,000 from three refugees from Central African Republic on 11/09/07	20 days close arrest; garrisoned
04	MDL NTIEGE John	Djohong Brigade	Extortion of an amount of FCFA 600, 000 from three refugees from Central African Republic on 11/09/07	20 days close arrest; garrisoned
05	MDL SALI WOUWE	Djohong Brigade	Extortion of an amount of FCFA 600, 000 from three refugees from Central African Republic on 11/09/07	20 days close arrest; garrisoned
06	G/M EPIE	Nyambaka Brigade	On duty at Koggi Nyambaka Market, arrested motorbike riders charging F1,000. Not satisfied, he fired two shots at the riders, committed on 03/12/2007	Temporarily assigned to Meiganga Company. Case for legal and administrative action on-going
07	MDL ABESSOLO François	Meiganga Company	Extortion of an amount of FCFA 160,000 to the detriment of two French expatriates, 19/12/07	Case for legal and administrative action on-going
08	Gend. TIECK Patrick Joseph	Batoua Godole Gendarmerie	Extortion of an amount of FCFA 160,000 to the detriment of two French expatriates, 19/12/07	Case for legal and administrative action on-going

09	Gend. FOKOU Jules	Batoua Godo Gendarmerie	Extortion of an amount of FCFA 160,000 to the detriment of two French expatriates, 19/12/07	Case for legal and administrative action on-going
10	A/C EMINI EMINI	Touboro Brigade	Illegal confinement, abuse of office	30 days close arrest; re-assigned to the South Western Legion

Source : National Gendarmerie

Key

A/C : Chief Warrant Officer

ADJT : Warrant Officer

MDL : Sergeant

G/M : Corporal

GEN : Constable

Measures taken by the Prisons Authorities

60. The end of 2006 in Cameroon was marked by a serious event: the strike embarked upon by certain elements of the Prisons Service. Indeed, this event raised questions about its timing given the fact that the prison authorities had made efforts at modernizing the system. The strike action fuelled criticisms about the right to strike, which, although spelt out in the preamble to the Constitution, provides for restrictions which are often intentionally ignored. This has often led Government to question its management especially as it relates to the respect of human rights, i.e. the right to life, the right to physical, natural and bodily integrity as well as the right to due process.
61. On 11th December, 2006, prison warders at an ENAP Batch 4 Club meeting questioned the delay on the part of the Service with regard to the processing of their applications to join the Cameroonian civil service. They distributed leaflets in which, in addition to their demand to be made part of the civil service, they demanded promotion, payment of arrears, articles of agreements and an improvement in their working conditions. They also threatened to go on strike if an urgent solution was not found to their problems. Government then took all the necessary steps to satisfy their demands by signing all the decrees to enable these young officers to join the service, with notification having been duly served on them.
62. However, in blatant violation of the special statute which provides in Article 54 that: "Officers of the Prisons Service shall not go on strike nor embark on any uprising or mutiny", the prison warders decided on 28th December, 2006 to embark on an action that led to the systematic refusal to obey the orders of their superior officers, to perform their court duties (sending prisoners to court and the investigator's office in particular), daily duties and routine assignments

(receive and execute committal warrants, release prisoners or receive prisoners' visitors). They only performed guard duties to prevent the possible escape of prisoners from the Yaoundé Central Prison.

63. The Senior Officials from the Ministry of Justice, including the Secretary of State for Prisons Administration, who had been dispatched by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, to inform them about the settlement of their grievances were received with disdain on all occasions by the striking officers. In addition to refusing to appoint a policeman to state their case and to hold consultations, they hardened their stance on 29th December, 2006 by making more demands which had nothing to do with those contained in the leaflet, i.e.; retirement at 65, request for consideration in the emoluments package of officers of the judiciary, determination of the protocol order of the Prisons Service, etc.
64. In the morning of 2nd January, 2007, with a view to causing panic in the Yaoundé Central prison and to force Government to unconditionally meet their demands, a group of prisons officers who were not on the duty roster for the day (and some of whom were retired and serving officers in other facilities) scaled the wall of the yard and took control of the prison.
65. To heighten the pressure, they prevented the doors of the cells from being opened, thereby preventing prisoners from enjoying their daily relaxation. Desirous of involving the latter in their action to force the State to react at all cost, the striking officers incited them to revolt and break the cell doors to enter the inner yard. The more violent ones went in the direction of the females' quarters, while others went in the direction of the prisoners shop and the uniforms store to dress up and thereby cause confusion. In the face of this crowd of dangerous elements who had fallen into their own trap, the prison warders started to fire into the air (in all, according to specialists, one thousand (1,000) shots were fired).
66. After trying in vain to bring the mutineers to reason, the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Justice decided at about 2 p.m. to allow the administrative authorities to serve them the standard warnings.
67. It was after the third and last warning – when a section of the prison was on fire – that the police took positions around the facility and evacuated the civilians living in the area to avoid a possible blood bath in the event of a massive escape. It was only at this moment that the mutineers withdrew from their positions, handed in their weapons and grouped under a shed opposite the Yaoundé central prison where they were arrested without any violence as part of a joint enquiry (Police – Gendarmerie) ordered by the State Prosecutor at the Central Regional Appeals' Court in Yaoundé after a message had been sent the same day.
68. Article 54 of the special statute of this para-military institution provides that "officers of the Prisons' Service shall not go on strike nor embark on any uprising or mutiny".

69. Furthermore, with regard to these officers, the following actions were taken by the Minister of Justice before the crisis:
- Reform of the statute on officers of the Prisons' Service as well as that of magistrates and clerks;
 - Participation of officials of the Prisons' Service in a seminar on the prisons administration reform project at the National Police Academy from 31st July to 4th August, 2006;
 - Provision over two successive years of clothing to all prisons' officers;
 - Provision of new prison vans to the Douala Central Prison in 2006 and the scheduled provision of similar vehicles to other prison facilities;
 - Rehabilitation of certain prisons and equipping of the ten provincial branches of the Prison's Administration;
 - Studies leading to the construction of the building of the new Douala Central Prison, and
 - Referral to the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning to fast-track the processing of the documents for the payment of newly recruited prisons officers.
70. The non-conformity of the officers' behaviour to Article 54 of their statute led to the opening of an investigation. The joint inquiry format was resorted to in order to avoid the settlement of scores and ensure that, under the supervision of State Prosecutors and in strict compliance with the provisions of the rules of criminal procedure that came into force on the eve of 1st January, 2007, an impartial, quick and effective judicial enquiry, taking into account both the various offences committed by the interested parties and the rights of the accused.
71. In the course of the inquiry, the suspects were detained with full regard for the law. The men were held in places, other than those for women and their safety and dignity were appropriately assured. Each individual was told his rights in accordance with Article 46 Paragraph 3 of the rules of criminal procedure, i.e.:
- The right to counsel, and
 - The right to remain silent
72. Furthermore, in accordance with Article 122, Paragraph (6) and paragraph 4 of the CPP, they were given sufficient breaks during the hearings, with the State taking charge of their meals. Even after their release, none of the suspects said he had suffered any form of torture or been ill-treated whatsoever. The presence of the State Prosecutor at this procedural stage fully guaranteed the respect of the rights of the suspects and dispelled any risk of torture.
73. To better inform local and international public opinion and ensure absolute transparency, the Minister of Justice held a press conference on 4th January, 2007 during which he dwelt on explaining the arguments of the mutineers.
74. The strike led to the following:

- The death (after the above-mentioned event occurred) of two prisoners of the Kondengui prison who consumed medical alcohol from the ransacked infirmary;
- The hospitalization of another prisoner who consumed the product but survived after receiving the appropriate medical care, and
- Damage to property valued at FCFA 150 million i.e. about 229,000 Euros, resulting from the ransacking of the infirmary, library and the storeroom and the fire in the prison (hundreds of mattresses, bed-sheets, cooking pots, medicines and various books).

Once their situation was brought under control, the security of the prison was assigned to the National Gendarmerie.

76. During the enquiry, each suspect who was reminded of his rights, read his statement and signed it unreservedly. None refused to do so (notwithstanding the fact that the law permits it: Article 90 of the rules of Criminal procedure). The seventy-one (71) suspects were referred to the Competent Court in all dignity and decency as well as in reasonable numbers in police and gendarmerie vehicles. At the court, they were made to sit comfortably in any empty courtroom and each of them was questioned by the magistrate who committed them for trial in accordance with the law. They were freely charged with the following offences provided for and punishable by the Criminal Code:

- Violation of Article 124 in that as officers, they came together to deliberate on measures contrary to the laws and enforceable texts, including collective resignation to prevent or suspend the execution of a public duty;
- Simple contravention of Article 157: for incitement and resisting the enforcement of the legitimate orders of the Superintendent of the Prison;
- Contravention of Article 158: for committing group offences and openly wielding weapons;
- Refusal of a duly authorized duty under Article 148: for refusing to perform court duties that included escorting of prisoners to court as well as refusing to receive and execute police warrants presented to them;
- Fomenting trouble at a duty post under Article 185: for those of them who were not on duty at the prison who went there to disrupt normal operations;
- Destruction of public property and dockets under Article 187: for destroying or damaging prison buildings;
- Fire and destruction under Article 227 and 316: for setting fire to and destroying the materials and provisions stores, infirmary and the inner offices of the prison;
- Mob action under Article 232: for gathering on the highway opposite the prison, thereby disrupting traffic;
- Manslaughter under Article 289: for carelessness and indulging in dangerous activities during the riots, leading to the destruction of the infirmary and stocks of medicine and death of prisoners due to lack of medical care, and
- Causing injury under Articles 280 and 281.

77. The case came up for hearing on 16th January, 2007 before the Ekounou magistrate's court which has full jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions

of Article 289 of the rules of criminal procedure and those of Article 13 of Law No.2006/015 of 29th December, 2006 on judicial organisation. The matter is still pending.

78. Per decree No. 009/MINJUSTICE of 5th January, 2007, 125 officers of the Prison Service were suspended for a period of four months for gross dereliction of duty. This suspension does not constitute a sanction but is rather a deterrent measure taken in accordance with Article 93 Paragraph 4 of the civil service general statute which provides that: "Where an offence is deemed to have been committed, the Service may take deterrent measures against the officers concerned". Furthermore, per decrees Nos. 007 and 008/MINJUSTICE of the same date, 16 Superintendents and the Acting Provincial Director of Prisons of the Centre Province were relieved of their duties, while two decrees signed the same day by the President and the Prime Minister replaced the Director General of Prisons and the Director of the said Service.

79. Per decisions No. 2007/072/MINJUSTICE/CAB/SEAP of 6th January, 2007, 125 prisons officers appeared before the disciplinary committee for:

- Insubordination;
- Illegal confinement of prison authorities;
- Refusal to obey orders and carry out assigned tasks;
- Refusal to carry out instructions;
- Strike, and
- Mutiny

The disciplinary committee sat from 15th January, 2007 and its report was forwarded to the top brass on 15th February, 2007.

80. Per decision No. 2007/070/D/MINJUSTICE/CAB/SEAP of 6th January, 2007 signed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, a Commission of Administrative inquiry was set up to look into the strike that took place at the Kondengui central prison in Yaoundé

The five-man commission was made up of two judges and three prison administrators. It's terms of reference were as follows:

- Inquire into the events that took place in Yaoundé Central Prison from 28th December, 2006 to 2nd January, 2007 in order to identify the perpetrators, instigators and, if possible, the manipulators;
- Identify and analyze the problems as well as cases of maladministration likely to have caused the strike, and
- Make subsequent proposals to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice in order to improve the management of these officers.

81. The Commission paid a surprise visit to ENAP in Buea from 17th to 22nd January, 2007 to check the entry, training and passing out conditions of prison warder-cadets batch and which was alleged to be at the centre of the strike action. Among others, this visit enabled them to observe that some cadets

gained entry through fraudulent means, while others did so illegally. They were served queries for their subsequent appearance before the commission. Thirty-six (36) warder-cadets were summoned and thirty-three (33) of them were questioned by the Commission of administrative inquiry from 14th to 23rd February, 2007. The various sessions confirmed the irregularities observed during the surprise visit to ENAP.

Sixteen (16) prison Superintendents, the former central provincial Director of prisons, the former Director of prisons and the former Director-General of Prisons appeared before the commission from 13th to 27th February, 2007. At the end of its mission, the Commission of Administrative Inquiry submitted its report. The high command is studying this report for further action.

82. The measures taken ensured the security of the people through the prevention of massive prisoner escapes since some of these prisoners are among the most dangerous.

In addition, such an occurrence strengthens the Government's commitment to look for and mobilize the means to modernize its administrative machinery and to ensure that its officers enjoy dignified working conditions. Besides, with the rules of criminal procedure that came into force in January, 2007, accused persons were able to fully exercise their rights and to have access to due process.

Paragraph 3: Legal Proceedings and sanctions

Measures taken by the Prison Authorities

83. The following legal proceedings and sanctions may be reported:
- AG vs. OTABELA OTABELA Laurent, prisons warder stationed at the Mbalmayo prison, accused of the murder of a prisoner. Per judgment No.63/CRIM of 2nd July, 2007, the Nyong et So'ol TGI replaced the charges with manslaughter and sentenced the accused who had been on remand to three years imprisonment and a fine of FCFA 200,000¹²;
 - AG vs. MBOKE NANE, Superintendent of Kribi Prison, appearing before the Océan TGI for inflicting grievous bodily harm, failure to provide help and torture of a prisoner; and sentenced to five years imprisonment on 23rd June, 2004. Following an appeal by all parties, and per ruling dated 12th May, 2005, the South Court of Appeal reduced Mr. MBOKE MBOKE's sentence to two years imprisonment;
 - AG vs. Chief Director of Prisons, BIKORO Aimé Parfait, and Chief Prison Warders AWA Luc, MBAZOUA and TSIMI BILOA. First accused was handed a three-year suspended sentence over a 4-year period by the Mvila TGI, which court, ruling in the same case, handed a three-year suspended sentence over a 3-year period to Chief Prison Warder AWA Luc, MBAZOUA and TSIMI BILOA for inflicting grievous bodily harm on a prisoner being held at the Ebolowa Central prison, and

- AG vrs. Chief Warder MANI ESSAMA Bienvenue Joseph, Warders KENWANG Nara Jules Hubert and AOUDOU Ibrahim KOSSINGO. The accused were committed on 25th January, 2006 and are being tried for torture and aiding and abetting torture before The Océan TGI. Following acts of violence administered with a baton on BOKALLY Jean who was chained by the accused, the latter was sent to the hospital where he died from his wounds. Per judgment No. 28/CRIM of 28th September, 2007, MANI ESSAMA Bienvenue was found guilty of torture and sentenced to ten years imprisonment, while the two others were found guilty of aiding and abetting torture and sentenced to five years imprisonment each.

Measures taken by the Gendarmerie and the Armed Forces

84. The following cases may be reported:

- AG vrs. MOZEDJO Eric, NGAMESSI, TSAPI, NJOYA ZENE Emile, NDOUMBE, gendarmes stationed at 30th Squadron, Maroua Gendarmerie HQ, charged with unlawful confinement, stealing, minor bodily injuries and refusal to provide help. The preliminary judicial investigation is on-going before the examining magistrate of the Diamaré TGI.
- AG vrs. WAKOU BASSAI, Commander of the Roua-Soulkeydé Gendarmerie Brigade on trial for abuse of office, arrest and unlawful confinement, forcible entry and threats. Per judgment No. 115/COR of 13th November, 2006, the Mokolo TIP found the accused guilty and sentenced him to ten years in prison and a fine of FCFA 15,000¹³;
- AG vrs METOMO MINFOMO Téléspouse, Commander of the Bourha Gendarmerie Brigade, ALWA Etienne, PAKAGNE André, deputy commander of the said Brigade, on trial for abuse of office and aiding and abetting. The case is pending before the Mokolo TPI;
- AG vrs Sergeant (MDL) FOU DA Alain and NDJOCK Michel, on trial for torture and fraud. Per judgment No.008/06 of 9th February, 2006, The Douala TM found FOU DA Alain guilty of torture and sentenced him to six months imprisonment suspended over a three-year period plus a fine of FCFA 50,000¹⁴ after admission to the facts against a grant of extenuating circumstances;
- AG vrs Major BANEM Anatole and others, on trial for torture, refusal to obey instructions and allowing the abuse of the rights of individuals and other offences. Per judgment No. 20/06 of 21st March, 2006, the Douala TM sentenced Major BANEM Anatole, Commander of the Douala Territorial Gendarmerie, to six months imprisonment for refusing to obey orders, Warrant Officer I DOMO Athanase, 10 years imprisonment for torture, Warrant Officer I TCHAPI Léon, 8 years imprisonment for torture, Warrant Officer II MBIAKOP Jean, 8 years imprisonment for torture, Warrant Officer I MENANGA AHANDA Jean-Claude, six months

imprisonment for refusing to obey orders, Sergeant MINKENG DJEMBA Barthélemy, 9 years imprisonment for torture;

- AG vrs Sergeant NKAMA ONANA, on trial for abuse of office and unlawful confinement. Per judgment No.23/06 of 22nd March, 2006, the Douala TM found accused of the said offences, sentenced him to a term of imprisonment and a warrant for him to be arrested to appear in court;
- AG vrs Sergeant AYISSI ATANGANA, on trial for arrest and confinement. Per judgment No.44/07 of 10th April, 2007, accused was found guilty, sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and ordered to pay costs;
- AG vrs Corporals MATOUMB Jean Marc and KOUAMOU SEPLONG William, on trial for unlawful arrest and confinement. Per judgement No. 045/07 of 10th April, 2007, the former was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of FCFA 200,000 and ordered to pay costs. The latter was sentenced to six months imprisonment, fined FCFA 25,000 and ordered to pay costs;
- AG vrs Sergeants OKOMBO Octave and ELOUNDOU Vincent, on trial for abuse of office, arrest and confinement. Per judgement No. 105/07 of 27th June, 2007, accused were found guilty and ordered to pay a fine of FCFA 75,000 each;
- AG vrs AYISSI ATANGANA (Sergeant) and NGO KALGA Christine (Civilian), on trial for swindling, aiding and abetting arrest and unlawful confinement. Per judgement No. 148/07 of 9th October, 2007, accused were found guilty, sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of FCFA 100,000 and ordered to pay costs, and
- AG vrs. AHANDA Joseph Magloire (Soldier), on trial for attempted murder, minor injuries and torture, subject of service inquiry order No. 204 of 8th April, 2008.

Measures taken by the Police Service

85. Although this is not a comprehensive dossier, legal proceedings were instituted and sanctions taken against the following Police Officers:
- Constables KAM John Brice, BIMOGA Louis Legrand, and GREBOUDA Michel and Inspector ETOUNDI Marc were tried for torture and murder. At the end of the trial, Constables KAM John Brice, BIMOGA Louis Legrand and GREBOUDA Michel were found guilty of torture and murder of a detainee and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment each by the Mfoundi TGI per judgement No.318/crim of 26th August, 2003. Inspector ETOUNDI Marc was found guilty of failing to offer assistance and consequently sentenced to three months imprisonment;

- Constable EFFA NGONO AKAME Geoffrey was sentenced by the Yaoundé TM to a two year suspended term over a period of three years for manslaughter and ordered to pay FCFA 3,000,000 in damages;
 - Corporal KEDIO NTCHINGUE and Constable ENYEGUE Jean-Marie were put before the Central Yaoundé administrative TGI for inflicting minor injuries;
 - Inspector Stephen NGU was on 24th October, 2005 sentenced by the Mémé TGI to 5 and 3 years imprisonment for torture and serious injuries respectively. On 12th May, 2004, accused inflicted burns at Ikiliwindi on AFUH Bernard WERIWO, a suspect in a bicycle theft case who died from the burns he sustained, and
 - Superintendent MIAGOUGOU DOM BELLO Japhet, first deputy to the Officer in charge of Public Safety at Kribi, per judgement No. 01/crim of 27th October, 2006 was found guilty of abuse of office and aiding and abetting a murder. He was consequently sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. Accused led an operation that led to the shooting and death of one person in the month of January, 2005. Per the same judgement, BOUBAKARI MODIBO was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. The accused persons were also ordered to pay plaintiffs an amount of FCFA 20,000,000 in damages. Seven other accused persons were acquitted.
86. After the convicted persons had filed an appeal, the South Appeals Court, per ruling No. 23/crim of 8th March, 2007, partially quashed the original judgement by replacing the initial murder charge with causing fatal bodily harm and thereby found BOUBAKARI MODIBO guilty of the new charge. It handed him a two-year suspended sentence over a 5-year period. MIAGOUGOU DOM BELLO Japhet was found not guilty of aiding and abetting the offence BOUBAKARI MODIBO had been charged with. By way of damages awarded to private individual winning a civil action parallel to prosecution in criminal proceedings, accused was ordered to pay plaintiffs the sum of FCFA 10,500,000 in damages. The DSN was found vicariously liable for the civil convictions¹⁵.
87. **Several other cases are worth mentioning here:**
- Attorney-General (hereinafter referred to as AG) vrs Constable MPACKO DIKOUME: per judgement given on 12th December, 2006, the Wouri TGI found accused guilty of causing fatal bodily harm, handed him a three-year suspended sentence over a period of three years and ordered him to pay plaintiff the sum of FCFA 12,000,000 in damages;
 - AG vrs. Constable NDIWA Joseph: per judgement given on 12th December, 2006, the Wouri TGI found accused guilty of fatal bodily harm and handed him a three-year suspended sentence over a period of three years, ordered him to pay a fine of FCFA 400,000 and another FCFA 8,000,000¹⁶ to plaintiff in damages¹⁷;

- AG vrs. Constable MANDJEK, on trial for torture, abuse of office, causing minor and serious bodily harm, arrest and confinement: per judgement given on 30th November, 2005, the Mbanga TPI observed that the case of the Prosecutor had lapsed owing to the death of the aforementioned;
- AG vrs AVA Gabriel, Inspector, on trial for torture. At the hearing of 18th April, 2006, accused was found guilty of torture, handed a six-month suspended sentence for a period of three years by the Garoua TPI and ordered to pay plaintiff FCFA 150,000 ¹⁸ in damages. This verdict is binding;
- AG vrs. ENGUENE Maglovre, Superintendent at the Garoua EMI – Immigration Office, charged with causing minor bodily injuries, arrest and confinement: a judicial inquiry is on-going, preliminary investigation into the case is being conducted before the examining magistrate of the Garoua TPI;
- AG vrs MEMENA GOUA Marthus, Constable on duty at No.4 GMI, on trial for abuse of office: the case is pending before the Garoua TPI.
- AG vrs. SEKE COLOMBAN, Chief Superintendent, charged with abuse of office, arrest and confinement, causing minor bodily harm and torture. A judicial inquiry is on-going before the examining magistrate of the Guider TPI;
- AG vrs Constable BELOMO Joseph, on trial for causing minor bodily harm before the Bamenda TPI which discharged him on 19th October, 2007;
- AG vrs. Constable MINKOULOU ESSOMBA, on trial for causing minor bodily harm before the Bamenda TPI which discharged him on 22nd December, 2006;
- AG vrs Inspector EPANDA Richard, on trial for causing minor bodily harm before the Bamenda TPI which, per judgement given on 9th February, 2007, fined him FCFA 100,000 and ordered him to pay FCFA 343,630 in damages;
- AG vrs. Inspector ATEP, charged with causing minor bodily harm and fined FCFA 10,000 by the Mokolo TPI during the 2004/2005 legal year;
- AG vrs Inspector MEIGARI BEDA, charged with threats, blackmail, arrest and unlawful confinement and handed a two-year suspended sentence over a period of three years and fined FCFA 99,000 by the Adamaoua Appeals' Court on 27th January, 2005, and
- AG vrs Inspector AMADOU ABBA, charged with torture and handed a 6-year suspended sentence over a period of three years per ruling of 4th February, 2005 after charges had been replaced by minor bodily harm.

Measures taken by the Territorial Administration

88. Similarly, legal proceedings were instituted against traditional chiefs. Thus, for the years preceding 2005:

- The Paramount Chief of Bafoussam, on trial for gang looting, arson, disturbance of possession and trespass of landed estate was on 6th May, 2002 handed a 5-year suspended sentence by the Mifi TGI over a period of five years and ordered to pay a fine of FCFA 1,000,000;
- The Lamido of Tchéboa, on trial for arrest, confinement and forced labour was on 24th August, 1993 handed a prison sentence by the Benoué TGI and a warrant was issued for him to be arrested to appear in court, and
- The Lamido of Douroum, charged with various acts of brutality against the people was tried, found guilty of disturbance of possession and destruction of property sentenced to two years imprisonment by the Mayo Louti TGI on 13th August, 2003.

During the 2004/2005 legal year:

- The sub-chief of FOULOU (the Mindjivin area of the North-Eastern Province, on trial for aiding and abetting coercion, threats, theft, arrest and unlawful confinement was handed a six-month suspended sentence over a period of three years and ordered to pay the sum of FCFA 50,000 in damages by the Maroua TPI;
- The Lamido of Bangana (Upper Northern Province), on trial for arrest, confinement as well as receiving and concealing of stolen goods was handed a two-year suspended sentence over a period of three years and ordered to pay the sum of FCFA 250,000 as damages by the Yagoua TPI;
- The representative of the Lamido of Rey Bouba at Touboro (Northern Province), accused of arrest and confinement, swindling and threats has been charged as part of a judicial inquiry;
- The Lamido of Douroum (Northern Province) is facing a judicial inquiry for arrest and confinement, and
- The Lamido of Matakan Sud (Mokolo, Upper Northern Province) is being tried for arrest, confinement and torture.

89. The State systematically institutes legal proceedings in cases of human rights violations that are referred to it. Though not comprehensive, the cases hereafter provide a summary of the situation in 2006;

- AG vrs. BIDJEKE Mathias, a community chief, was tried for abuse of office par the Edéa TPI. He was discharged per judgement given on 17th October, 2007;

- AG vrs BOUBAKARI HAMADOU, Lamido of Dazal (Northern Province), accused of arrest, theft and confinement was tried by the Guider TPI. Per judgement given on 5th April, 2006, he was found not guilty and discharged for lack of conclusive evidence;
- AG vrs ABDOU HAMAYADJI MAYO, representative of the Lamido of Rey Bouba, Touboro, charged with arrest and confinement as well as swindling and threats. A non-suit was directed owing to the death of the aforementioned;
- AG vrs ABBO ABOUBAKAR, a traditional chief, charged with unlawful arrest and confinement; accused was found not guilty and discharged per judgement No. 21/crim of 21st March, 2007 by Tibati TGI;
- AG vrs. MOUSSA ABOUKAR, Lamido of Tchéboa, charged with arrest, confinement and subsequently physical cruelty. The case is currently before the examining magistrate of the Garoua TPI;
- AG vrs. BAINA DEDAIDANI, chief of Doré-Tongo village, on trial for arrest and confinement. Per judgement No. 13/crim of 16th August, 2006, he was found guilty by the Garoua TGI, sentenced to ten years imprisonment and ordered to pay an amount of FCFA 1,000,000 in damages to the plaintiff. A warrant was issued for the arrest of the accused whose counsel filed an appeal on 2nd February, 2007;
- AG vrs OUSSEINI HAMADOU, Lawan of Badadji, on trial for arrest and confinement. Per judgement No. 101/cor of 29th November, 2006, the Guider TPI found accused guilty of aiding and abetting arrest and unlawful possession of another's property, handed him a 12-month suspended sentence over a period of three years and ordered him to pay the sum of FCFA 360,000 as damages to the plaintiff;
- AG vrs Fon¹⁹ GAH GWANYIN of Balikumbat and 11 others. On 20th August, 2003, at a location near Bamenda, John KOHTEM, a leading member of the opposition Social Democratic Front²⁰, was beaten to death by supporters of the Fon of Balikumbat who were arrested and detained under remand for murder. The Fon became a prime suspect and he was stripped of his parliamentary immunity. On 12th April, 2006, he and nine others were sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by the Ndop TGI. The North West Appeals' Court on 18th August, 2006 ordered the release on bail of Fon GAH GWANYIN and four other co-defendants. They were released on bail in the sum of FCFA 4,000,000²¹ plus two sureties. The five other co-defendants whose application for bail was rejected have filed an appeal at the Supreme Court.
- AG vrs. DJAOURO HAMADOU, chief of Nyassar village, on trial for unlawful arrest and confinement, was handed a six-month suspended sentence over a period of 3 years by Ngaoundéré TPI;
- AG vrs. OUSSEINI HAMADOU, Lawan of Badadji, on trial for arrest and confinement. Per judgement No. 101/cor of 29th November, 2006 the

Guider TPI found accused guilty of aiding and abetting arrest and unlawful possession of another's property, handed him a 12-month suspended sentence over a period of three years and ordered him to pay the sum of FCFA 360,000 as damages to the plaintiff;

- AG vrs ABOUBAKAR MOUSSA, Lamido of Tchéboa, charged with arrest, confinement and subsequently physical cruelty. The case is currently before the examining magistrate of the Garoua TPI, and
- AG vrs. LAWAN YOUSOUFA, traditional chief of Liri-Mogodé, on trial for arrest and confinement. The case is pending before the Garoua TPI.

In fine, by taking preventative and deterrent measures, the State of Cameroon has firmly committed itself to the fight against impunity.

PART TWO: INFORMATION ON EACH RIGHT OR FREEDOM VIS-À-VIS THE APPLICABLE ARTICLES OF THE CHARTER

90. This part gives an account of the developments observed in the application of the articles of the Charter since the submission of the above report in the following areas:

- Civil and political rights;
- Economic, social and cultural rights as well as the right to a healthy environment.

CHAPTER I: CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

91. This chapter aims at assessing the advances made in the application of the Charter in the area of civil and political rights. Thus, the following developments will deal with the relevant rights.

Section I: Non-discrimination and equality before the law (Articles 2 and 3)

92. Under Article 2 and 3 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, every person is entitled to enjoy their rights and freedoms and equal treatment before the law.

This is a fundamental law provided for in the Constitution.

The developments contained in the preceding report (Paragraphs 131 to 133) remain topical issues.

93. However, the issue of homosexuality which would have been the most topical matter at national level may be raised. This issue which affects human rights seems to be linked to a certain demand of a right to a different way of life which goes beyond events that have brought to light, this phenomenon which has led to a series of arrests and convictions of several people since 2005. It

will not be out of place to take a second look at the rule of law in Cameroon with regard to this sensitive issue.

94. From the point of view of the Cameroonian legal system, the condemnation of homosexuality is not in contravention of the provisions of Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and those of Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in the sense that homosexuals are not denied the enjoyment of any right or benefit on account of their presumed sexual preference. Legal action is taken against them for engaging in practices that are in contravention of both the existing legislation as well as the things that the democratic Cameroonian society of today still considers as good morals.
95. Furthermore, the position of Cameroonian law can lean on the relevant provisions of Articles 29(2) of the UDHR and 29(7) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which constitute safety clauses that may be invoked by every democratic society depending on its moral particularities.

These provisions respectively:

- Agree that a State may restrict a right or freedom "in order to satisfy the just demands of morality, public order and the general well-being of a democratic society";
- Require individuals "to ensure that, in his relations with society, positive African Cultural values are preserved and enhanced...."

96. In the current state of African culture, homosexuality does not only appear to be an unaccepted value by the Cameroonian society but is also considered universally as a manifestation of moral decadence that should be fought.
97. Besides, Cameroon is a multi-ethnic country where more than 230 ethnic groups (determined in accordance with dialect) and several religious groups live together. Among these religious groups are the Christians, Muslims and animists. Proof of this is the fact that the Head of State is a French-speaking Christian; the Speaker of Parliament is a French-speaking Muslim from the North, while the Prime Minister is an English speaking Christian.
98. Far from being a factor of conflict and an obstacle to conjugal life, this ethnic diversity is rather a factor of mutual enrichment.

Government's objective of eliminating all forms of discrimination can be achieved through national integration, peaceful co-existence, interpenetration among the ethnic groups and the harmonious development of the regions.

99. Besides, Government undertook to promote the culture of democracy which underpins the ideal of tolerance and acceptance of the way of life of others as well as the promotion of understanding and harmonious relations between the people.

As a State party to the Convention on the elimination of racial discrimination, Cameroon has made its own the relevant provisions of the 2001 Durban Declaration and Plan of Action.

Section II: Right to life, freedom, safety of the individual and Prohibition of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Articles 4, 5, 6)

100. Paragraphs 134, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148 and 149 of Cameroon's Initial Report take stock of all the measures relating to the protection of the right to life, freedom, safety of the individual and prohibition of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
101. In addition to the other developments in the area of human rights outlined by the CPP, it should be noted that detention conditions have improved significantly, particularly with the advent of the following measures:
 - Formal introduction of the writ of habeas corpus or immediate release (Articles 584 – 588);
 - Restriction of detention cases (Articles 86(1), 92(4), 118-126, 196, 236(1) and (2), 237);
 - Strengthening of the suspect's right to counsel as soon as the hearing before trial begins and his right to a medical examination (Articles 122(3), 123);
 - Prohibition of the subjection of suspects to torture and the obligation to accord them humane treatment (Articles 121(2) of the CPP);
 - Right to suspects to remain silent (Article 116(3));
 - Obligation of the examining magistrate to determine the length of time that suspects can be held in custody in the committal order (Article 221);
 - Right of victims of unauthorized detention or detention under remand to seek damages (Article 221);
 - Obligation to provide assistance to minors on trial by a lawyer or any other qualified person to ensure the protection of the rights of children (Article 719(2));
 - Possibility of release on bail at all stages of the proceedings (Articles 224 – 235).
102. With the adoption of a set of rules of criminal procedure, Cameroon has reinforced the special nature²² of the detention under remand measure by setting a time limit for the judicial inquiry. Thus, under Article 221(1) of the CPP: *"The duration of the detention under remand shall be determined by the examining magistrate in the committal order. The said detention under remand shall not exceed a period of six (6) months. However, it may be extended by a justifiable order to a maximum period of twelve (12) months for criminal offences and six (6) months for misdemeanours"*.
103. In the enforcement of this provision, the examining magistrates concerned shall systematically proceed with the immediate release of persons on remand at the end of the statutory deadlines. The writ of habeas corpus procedure

stipulated by the CPP authorizes the redress of possible infringements relating to the wrongful remand whatever the circumstances, be they administrative or military.

Article 584 of the CPP provides that:

1. The presiding judge of the High Court of Justice (TGI) in the locality where a person is arrested or any other magistrate of the said court appointed by him shall have the jurisdiction to hear the petitions for habeas corpus based on the illegal arrest or custody or on failure to comply with the related legal provisions;
2. He also shall have the jurisdiction to appraise the legal remedies instituted against the measures relating to the remand in custody;
3. The petition shall be made either by the person arrested or placed in custody or on behalf of the latter by another person. The petition shall not bear any seal”

104. For example, the TGI at Mfowdi, by decision No. 65/PTGJ/Ydé of 1st February 2007 ordered the immediate release of Warrant Officer ESSELEBO Didace, detained per custody order issued by the military investigative magistrate. The officer concerned was released per Order No. 070092/BCE/MUNDEF/DJM/PMY/BG.

The jurisprudence on habeas corpus contains copious information. It was for instance decided that the following cases were simply illegal.

SERIAL NO.	ORDER NO.	DATES	PERSONS RELEASED
01	01/HC	14 January, 2008	Nsong Atangana Vincent
02	08/HC	24 April, 2008	Empimedjoa Massa David
03	09/HC	24 April, 2008	Amantchang Ignace
04	15/HC	10 July, 2008	Ngwanyam Joseph Mangeh
05	17/HC	16 September, 2008	Mbaki Djob Alain
06	22/HC	25 September, 2008	Tchoffo Nguemetha Serge
07	27/HC	02 October, 2008	Anaba Marie Thérèse
08	30/HC	16 October, 2008	Eyebe Ateba Augustin
09	36/HC	21 October, 2008	Tchek Luc Achille
10	37/HC	23 October, 2008	Ngone Ndongo Josué
11	39/HC	30 October, 2008	Amadzebe Abega Jean Louis

Source: MINJUSTICE

105. In terms of jurisdiction pertaining to judgement, apart from the criminal sanctions taken against the perpetrators of the said injustice, damages can be awarded to the victims if they decide to take civil action. In the case of the AG vrs Lamido de TCHEBOA, sentenced for arrest and confinement, the TGI of Benoué awarded an amount of FCFA 2,000,000 in damages to the private persons.

The two conventional systems of remedy for the abuses in question will be subject to the new compensation procedure provided for in Articles 236 and 237 of the CPP.

106. In fact, Article 236 declares as follows:

1. "Any person wrongfully detained or placed in detention on remand can, in the event of the procedure terminating in a non suit or where acquittal becomes irrevocable, obtain compensation if the person establishes that he/she suffered an actual wrong of a specific gravity as a result of his/her custody"
2. Police custody or wrongful detention on remand as applicable to paragraph 1 above is a situation where:
 - The police detective officer is in breach of Articles 119 to 126 of this rule;
 - The State's Attorney or the examining Magistrate is in breach of the provisions contained in Articles 218 to 235, 258 and 262 of this rule;
 - The compensation is payable by the State which can exercise its Republican action against the culpable official"

SECTION III: FREE ACCESS TO JUSTICE (ARTICLE 7 PARAGRAPHS 1)

107. Under the terms of the provisions of the Charter, every person enjoys the right to have their case heard. Justice is free but subject to the payment of registration fees. Furthermore, legal assistance is given to poor persons. The Ministry of Justice is currently working on the simplification of the legal assistance procedure to enable a large number of citizens to better defend their rights.

108.1 To bring justice to those facing trial and ensure a more effective delivery of justice, many courts were opened or rehabilitated. Furthermore, fourteen Courts were opened at Yaoundé-Ekounou, Yaoundé Administrative Hub, Douala-Ndokoti, Douala-Bonanjo, Ambam, Bengem, Fundong, Ngoumou, Poli, Tchellire, Tignère, Benjbis, Menji and Ntui.

108.2 Moreover, the Supreme Court, the Appeal's Court in the Centre, Littoral, West, North-West and South West Provinces were expanded.

108.3 Furthermore, to strengthen the operational capacity for justice delivery, a three-year recruitment programme starting from the 2008 budget year is being prepared and the objective is to recruit:

- 1500 personnel into the Prison Administration,

- 450 magistrates
- 300 court clerks
- 600 assistant court clerks
- 300 secretaries.

SECTION IV: THE PRINCIPLE OF LEGALITY OF OFFENCES AND PUNISHMENTS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALIZATION OF SANCTIONS (ARTICLE 7 PARAGRAPH 2)

109.1 The principle of legality of offences and punishments is provided for under the Charter and it is reaffirmed in the preamble to the Cameroonian Constitution which states that: ***“No person can be judged and punished except in accordance with a law promulgated and published prior to the punishable deed”***. This principle of legality, offences and punishments comprise as a corollary the cardinal rule of non-retroactivity of criminal laws. This rule is stated by Article 3 of the Criminal Procedure Code in the following terms: ***“shall not be liable to criminal law offences committed prior to its entry into force or those that were not the subject of judgement before its express or tacit abrogation”***.

109.2 As far as individualization of sanctions is concerned, the Criminal Procedure Code establishes it.

SECTION V: FREEDOM OF BELIEF (ARTICLE 8)

110. The preamble to the Constitution of 18th January, 1996 proclaims secularism, neutrality and independence of the State vis-à-vis all religions. It reaffirms the freedom of worship and the free exercise of one's faith as contained in Article 18 of the UDHR and Article 18 of the ICCPR.
111. The Cameroonian religious landscape is marked by peaceful co-existence of Christian, Muslim and animist communities. The followers of the different religions live alongside one another in all spheres of human endeavour, in civil, private and public sectors without any form of discrimination.
112. The religious denominations are authorized to carry out their service by Presidential Decree in accordance with the legislation in force. The legislation confers legal personality on them. Some of the associations out of public necessity have turned into NGOs with the aim of promoting freedom of association to achieve certain economic, social or cultural objectives.

The religious denominations are regulated by law No.90/53 of 19th December, 1990 on the freedom of association. Article 22 of the said law provides that:

“A religious denomination is:

- ❖ *Any group of private persons or bodies corporate whose objective is to give honour to a deity;*

❖ *Any group of persons living in fellowship in accordance with “a religious doctrine”.*

113. The establishment of any religious community in Cameroon is subject to authorization under the Decree issued by the Head of State. In substance, it refers to what is provided for in Articles 23 and 24 mentioned above. By the said authorization, religious denominations are granted legal personality.
115. Though Article 25 paragraph 1 of the above-mentioned law prohibits them from receiving public subventions, gifts or devises, the paragraph 2 grants them the right to receive any necessary gifts or devises for the execution of their activities. Moreover, they can acquire chattels for whatever purpose or intention they may serve.

SECTION IV: FREEDOM OF OPINION, EXPRESSION AND OF THE PRESS (ARTICLE 1)

116. Article 9 of the Charter stipulates that:

“Every person shall have the right to information (---)”

“Every person shall have the right to express and disseminate their opinions within the limits of the laws and regulations”

In its preamble, the Constitution guarantees freedom of opinion, expression and of the press in the following terms: *“freedom of conscience, freedom of expression and of the press (----) are guaranteed under conditions determined by law”.*

117. Human rights defenders are more often recruited in Cameroon from among men and women of the different professional groups such as journalists, lawyers, medical doctors, trade unionists, committed intellectuals including the clergy and persons from the secular world. Sometimes, ordinary citizens who also consistently denounce abuses of the dignity of human persons and promote the respect of fundamental rights.

The community also comprises independent administrative authorities, independent organizations or civil society organizations.

118. Human rights defenders freely exercise their activities except where they voluntarily depart from the statutory responsibilities of their association by engaging in activities that go beyond rights and freedoms as contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Many abuses derive from a number of activities to the detriment of peaceful citizens who sometimes seek justice. Judicial harassments which human rights defenders complain about very often stem from the troublesome nature of their own schemes vis-à-vis the rights of other citizens.

Human rights defenders constitute an important link in the consolidation of the culture of Human Rights in Cameroon. They must position themselves as persons who arouse the conscience of men for the promotion of human rights.

In any case, there is no immunity in terms of legal action against human rights defenders when they infringe the criminal law. The law guarantees their freedom in exercising their activities as long as they respect the rights of others and do not breach public order.

119. The press in particular is governed by law No. 90/052 of 19th December, 1990 on freedom of social communication which was revised and supplemented by law No. 96/04 of 4th January, 1996. This legislation establishes the lifting of administrative censorship prior to publication of newspapers which was replaced by the simple procedure of administrative deposit. Radio communication was liberalized and private radio stations are on the increase especially in Yaoundé and Douala and this also includes rural community radio stations that are focused on providing support for community development projects. The print media is varied.

120.1. The judicial officer based on law No. 96/04 of 4th January, 1996 cited above, controls interference by public authorities in the exercise of the freedom of the press.

120.2 The freedom of communication is guaranteed by law No. 90/052 of 19th December, 1990 relating to freedom of social communication, which was modified by Law No. 96/04 of 16th January, 1996. There is proliferation of press houses with more than 200 newspapers with a wide range of operating periods, private radio and television stations, internet-related press, private printing houses, advertising companies and association of communication specialists. Though media offences are punishable by the criminal code, administrative censorship has been abrogated. On 30th August, 2007, initial licences were issued to private audiovisual communication companies in accordance with Decree No. 2000/158 of 3rd April, 2000 defining the conditions and modalities for the creation and operation of private audiovisual communication firms. Furthermore, a National Commission which meets every year was established to examine applications for access to private assistance in the area of communication.

SECTION VII: FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY (ARTICLE 10 AND 11)

121. The freedom of association provided for in Article 10 of the Charter is guaranteed by the Constitution of Cameroon. It concerns civil associations regulated by Law No. 90/053 relating to freedom of association, which distinguishes two systems: the declaration as an ordinary system; the authorization for foreign associations and religious associations. In the case of NGOs, they are regulated by a specific provision, Law No. 99/014 of 22nd December, 1999. It also concerns trade unions and eventually political parties, regulated by Law No. 090/050 of 19th December, 1990.
122. The freedom of assembly is also guaranteed by the Constitution and by Law No. 90/055 of 19th December, 1990 relating to assembly and public events. According to this provision, meetings are free and are subject to the legal

system of declaration. Meetings in public places, if they are likely to disturb public order, can be banned by the Administrative authority with jurisdiction over the area in the enforcement of the powers of the police.

123. Non State actors (associations, trade unions, political parties) play a significant role in the promotion and protection of human rights in Cameroon.
124. There are a host of associations whose establishment is in conformity with the declaration. Among those whose objective is specifically focused on human rights, about 500 had been registered as at 19th December, 2008 according to the register of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms. In 2006, the number of foreign associations stood at 223, Catholic religious congregations at 79 and religious denominations at 46.
125. The labour code guarantees freedom of association and the right to strike. In 2005, there were 596 professional unions in the private sector, 5 professional unions for public employees. The revitalization of union activities has been observed as forty-six (46) new unions were established in 2006 and twenty-seven (27) in 2007.
126. Since the liberalization of politics thanks to Law No.90/056 of 19th December, 1990 relating to political parties, the multi-party system has come to stay in Cameroon. In 2008, more than 210 political parties were registered.

SECTION VIII: THE RIGHT TO FREE MOVEMENT AND CHOICE OF RESIDENCE, TO LEAVING A COUNTRY AND SEEKING ASYLUM

127. In addition to developments sanctioned in the Preliminary Report in paragraph 174 to 179, it must be noted that the legal framework for the protection of foreigners was strengthened through the adoption of Law No. 2005/006 of 27th July, 2005 relating to the status of refugees.
128. Cameroon adopted law No. 2005/006 of 27th July, 2005 on the status of refugees. In Article 2, it adopts the definition of refugee as contained in the Geneva Convention of 28th July, 1951 relating to the status of refugees and in the OAU Convention regulating specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa signed in Addis Ababa on 10th September, 1969. Under the terms of this Article, a refugee is viewed as:

“Any person who has genuine reason to believe that he is being persecuted on account of his race, religion, nationality, or affiliation to a certain social group or for his political opinions, and who is outside his country of origin and based on this fear does not want to seek the protection of this country; or who is a stateless person and is outside his country of permanent residence following such events, cannot or as a result of the purported fear may not return there;

Any person who as a result of an aggression, external occupation or foreign domination or events which seriously disturb public order in a part or all over his country of origin and is compelled to leave his permanent residence to seek asylum in another location outside his country of origin or the country of his nationality”.

129. It is therefore forbidden to extradite, to turn back at the border or take measures which would compel a person, in line with the above-mentioned definition, to return or remain in a territory where his life, bodily integrity or freedom are under threat (Article 7 paragraphs 1 and 15 of Law No. 2005/006). If on the contrary, a person has an illegal immigration status, no criminal sanction can be taken against him, but is compelled without any further delay to go to the immigration authorities to regularize his situation (Article 8). It must however be underscored that a refugee permanently resident in Cameroon can be expelled for reasons of national security or public order. The refugee enjoys economic and social rights and in particular the right to naturalization.
130. The same law establishes a Committee to determine the eligibility of the status of refugees and a Committee on redress is open to refugees. On the issue of the procedure to enjoy the right of asylum, it has been highly simplified and a certificate of deposit enables the asylum seeker to move freely in Cameroon and enjoy their fundamental rights as specified jointly in the Geneva Convention of 1951 and the Addis Ababa Convention on refugees. It must be said that these facilities are also in keeping with the objectives espoused by Human Rights Defence Organizations notably:
- To defend the right of refugees so as not to be sent to countries where they risk being victims of violation of their fundamental rights;
 - To defend the right of all persons seeking asylum to benefit from a fair and satisfactory procedure of investigation;
 - To promote the fundamental rights of migrants;
 - To consolidate the economic, social and cultural rights of refugees and migrants;
 - To improve the protection of women, young girls and little girls who are refugees or displaced persons and who are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and sexual violence.
131. Law No. 97/010 of 10th January, 1997, modifying and supplementing certain provisions of Law No. 64/LF/13 of 26th June, 1964 defining the extradition regime prohibits the extradition of persons to destinations where they run the risk of being tortured. This law is modeled on Article 3 of the Convention of the United Nations Convention on Torture and other cruel, degrading and inhuman punishments or treatments. In a case in which judgement was delivered by the Appeal Court of the Centre Province in terms of extradition, an unfavourable judgement was given regarding the extradition of eight (8) Rwandans who were purported perpetrators of genocide. The Court estimated that, in the application of the above-mentioned law, *“No person can be extradited to a country where there are serious risks to believe that the person is under threat of being tortured”*²³. It must however be pointed out that the Convention and the law are silent on the prohibition from extradition in cases where people risk punishments and other cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment.
132. The CPP filled this gap by extending this interdiction to these assumptions. Thus, under the terms of Article 645(d) of the said Code, extradition is not

enforceable *“If the requested State has genuine cause to believe that the person whose extradition is being sought, will be subjected to torture and other forms of punishments or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment”*

Section IX: The right to participate in public affairs and have access to administrative jobs (Article 13)

133. Article 13 of the Charter states that: *“All citizens shall have the right to participate freely in the management of public affairs of their country, either directly or through representatives freely chosen and this must be in accordance with provisions enacted under the law (---)”*

“All citizens shall also have the right to access public functions of their country”

“Every person shall enjoy the right to use property and public service in strict compliance with equality of all before the law”

134.1 Regarding the participation in the management of public affairs, either directly or through elected representatives, several political parties sought popular ballot after the restoration of political pluralism in 1990.

134.2 The Law establishing ELECAM translates the determination of Government to consolidate democracy in Cameroon, through improvement of the electoral system after the experience the country had gone through under ONEL. The formulation of this new law took into consideration recommendations by International Organizations particularly those of the Commonwealth and those of personalities consulted by the Prime Minister, in particular civil society and religious authorities.

134.3 The creation of a plethora of political parties, harmonization of the electoral register and adoption of legal provisions on elections are some of the measures taken by Cameroon in the promotion and protection of political rights.

134.4 The political parties and their candidates have equal access to the public media in terms of campaigns periodically allotted on the air waves during every election by the Ministry of Communication, under the control of the National Communication Council.

135. Access to public service employment is open to all persons, in particular through administrative competitive entrance examinations. However, on this issue, for certain professional schools, provincial quotas are determined to ensure equity in representation as far as regions are concerned.
136. The implementation of a computerization programme regarding the electoral process started at the Central governmental and provincial administrations of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINATD) in 2006. With the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a master plan for the computerization of the electoral process was

formulated. The document defines the infrastructure to be installed as well as the procedure for the processing of electoral data.

SECTION X: THE RIGHT TO PROPERTY (ARTICLE 14)

137.1 Article 14 of the Charter guarantees the right to property, which cannot be legally infringed upon, except for public necessity or in the wider interest of the community.

137.2 In Cameroon, the right to property is stated in the preamble of the constitution which stipulates that:

“Property is the right to use, enjoy and to possess goods guaranteed to each person by the law. No one shall be denied these rights if the reason is not for public convenience and on condition of compensation whose modalities are determined by law”

The developments contained in previous reports are relevant.

SECTION XI: THE RIGHT TO PEACE AND SECURITY BOTH AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS (ARTICLE 23)

138.1 Article 23 of the Charter lays the principle of the need for peace and security both at national and international levels to which the people have a right.

138.2 The creation of police and gendarmerie units within the major cities such as Yaoundé and Douala is borne out of the concern to ensure the maintenance of peace and security of persons including property. Special attention was given to different social groups according to their specificities as attested to by the creation in June, 2006 of the Diplomats’ Security Company.

139. In this regard, in keeping with its policy of promoting peace for both persons living in her territory and among neighbouring States, the Government committed itself to the search for a fair and equitable solution to the conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria based on respect for International Law. Thus, after the Decision by the International Court of Justice on 10th October, 2002, Cameroon redeemed its actual and total sovereignty over the Bakassi Peninsula. With regard to this matter, during the address of the Head of State, H.E. Mr. Paul BIYA to the nation on 21st August, 2008, he assured foreigners living in this part of Cameroonian territory that their rights shall be respected including the security and safety of their property. For example, Cameroon is home to a large community of Nigerians who had not been disturbed in any way during the border conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria.
140. At the sub-regional level, Cameroon is a founding member of the Committee of Central African Police Chiefs (CCPAC) which is a forum for high level consultations for the harmonization of security policies with the aim of optimizing the mechanisms for combating cross-border crimes. It is against

this background that Yaoundé was selected to host the sub-regional Office of the IOCP – Interpol Central Africa.

141. The commitment of Cameroon to peace explains the major role played by the Head of State of Cameroon, H.E. Mr. Paul BIYA in hosting sub-regional conferences of Heads of State and Government which led to the creation of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX) and the signing of two Agreements, one on Non-aggression and the other on Mutual Assistance. Furthermore, the role of Cameroon can be emphasized especially in helping to minimize the suffering of tens of thousands of Africans who, in fleeing from wars in their countries sought refuge in this country.

SECTION XII: THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COURTS (ARTICLE 26)

142.1 The Constituent Assembly of 1996 transformed justice, which had hitherto been judicial authority, into judicial power (Article 37 paragraph 2 of the Constitution) which is exercised by the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal and the Courts. It is independent of the Executive and Legislative powers.

142.2 The President of the Republic is the guarantor of the independence of the Judiciary. He appoints the judges upon the advice of the Higher Judicial Council, independent consultative organs comprising judges, parliamentarians and independent-minded personalities.

143.1 The independence of the Judiciary is given emphasis by the functions of the judges of the Supreme Court which, according to paragraph 2 of Article 37 of the Constitution, *“come under the judicial functions prescribed by law and by their conscience”*.

The independence of the courts in relation to the Executive and the Judiciary is guaranteed by Article 37 paragraph 2 of the Constitution.

143.2 Among others, the independence of the judges of the Supreme Court is fundamental. The paragraph 2, line 2 of Article 37 cited above states that: *“the judges of the Supreme Court exercise their judicial functions only in accordance with the law and their conscience”*. These provisions are restated in Article 5 of Decree No.95/048 of 8th March, 1995, modified by Decree No. 2004/080 of 13th April, 2004 on the status of judges.

144. It must be specified that in terms of disciplinary matters civil judges come under the Higher Judicial Council. Under Article 1 of Law No.82/14 of 26th November, 1982, modified, relating to the determination of the organization and functions of the Higher Judicial Council:

1. The Higher Judicial Council shall be presided over by the Head of State.

2. The Minister of Justice is the Vice-Chairperson. However, the Head of State can appoint another personality as Vice-Chairperson;
3. Besides, the Higher Judicial Council comprises:
 - (a) Three Parliamentarians out of a list of 20 members presented by the National Assembly.
 - (b) Three judges of 4th rank in active service from the Supreme Court, selected from a list of 10 members presented by the Supreme Court.
 - (c) A personality neither belonging to the National Assembly and/ nor to the Judiciary, who is also not an official of the Court appointed by the Head of State on account of his experience.
 - (d) The National Assembly shall appoint by secret ballot and a two-thirds majority of its members, 20 Parliamentarians for the list provided for in paragraph 3.

The Supreme Court approves in plenary session, ten judges for the list provided for in paragraph 3”

145. It must be emphasized that the issue of the judges pledging their allegiance to the Executive Branch comes up as one of the criticisms leveled against the Cameroonian justice system as a result of the nomination of judges by the Head of State.
146. Two factors for debunking this assertion can be presented here:
 - On the one hand, one must emphasize that though it is true that the Head of State appoints the judges, this does not in any way constitute a factor for the latter being subservient to the Head of State as the former exercise their full authority in carrying out their functions. In fact, it appears that all acts of appointment and disciplinary sanctions of judges of the Supreme Court are done based on the prior consent and advice of the Higher Judicial Council in conformity with Article 37, paragraph 3 of the Constitution.

Besides, by its composition, the Higher Judicial Council comprises eminent personalities belonging to the different institutional powers, thus ensuring a broader representation and balance;

- On the other hand, it must be recalled that Cameroon does not wield monopoly of such institutional functioning. In other countries where such a system is in force, it is not a question of the Judiciary being subservient to the Executive. Thus, on 22nd October, 1984, in a matter which came up in an almost similar manner, the problem of the independence of the Judiciary vis-à-vis the Executive was posed, the European Court of Human Rights stated that: *“the intervention of the Executive at one stage or the*

other in the appointment of judges is not enough to cast any doubt on their independence and impartiality”

147. Moreover, Article 26 provides that the State parties to the Charter have the right to guarantee the independence of the courts by providing them with more resources and ensuring that the national human rights protection institution will be empowered to contribute to the improvement of justice delivery.
148. This can be done through improvement in the working conditions of judicial service staff, the building of courts of Justice, staff training and documentation.
149. On these thrusts, the Ministry of Justice has for more than two years taken significant actions. Thus, the Ministry, with the support of the Commonwealth, undertook a programme of computerization of the judicial system and the prisons data base.
150. With regard to the contribution of civil society and specifically the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, significant progress has been made to enhance the capacity of intervention notably by the appointment and swearing in of its members, by incorporating its budget into the Financial Act and by inaugurating its provincial branch at Buea in the South West Province on 13th October, 2006. It can also be affirmed that since its creation, this institution has examined a lot of petitions, with three hundred and fifty (350) of them in 2006, particularly on the violation of the following rights:
 - Right to security of persons (32 cases);
 - Right to physical and moral integrity (21 cases);
 - Fundamental rights of detainees (9 cases);
 - Right to a fair trial (137 cases);
 - Right to property (78 cases);
 - Right to work (73 cases).

CHAP II: **ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

151- The study of these various rights will aim at examining significant actions taken by Cameroon during the 2004-2008 period, to ensure protection and promotion of the following specific rights:

- the right to work;
- the right to health;
- the right to education ;
- the fundamental women’s rights
- the rights of the family, mother and the child
- the rights of physically challenged persons and older persons;
- the right to good standard of living (right to food, access to water and electricity) ;
- the right to decent accommodation;
- the right to a safe environment ;

SECTION I: THE RIGHT TO DÉCENT WORK (ART 15):

152- In order to implement the right to work, Cameroon has ratified almost all the ILO Conventions which actually helped Cameroon to be elected as member of the ILO Board of Directors for a period of 3 years, at the 93rd Session of the International Conference in June 2005.

153- With regard to internal arrangements, the legal framework for promotion and protection of the right to work takes into account the following major thrusts:

- the protection of the right to work through the definition of worker and employment contract;
- the legal protection for probationary employment, which regulates the period that precedes the signing of the employment contract ;
- the protection of the worker, in the event of suspension of the employment contract, that enjoins the employer to pay a compensation, of varying amounts as the case may be, for the duration of the suspension ;
- the protection of the worker in the event of breach of employment contract.

154- At the institutional level, it should be pointed out that reforms initiated for the rehabilitation of the National Provident Fund (*Caisse Nationale de Prévoyance Sociale-CNPS*) and the overall reorganization of the social security were further given concrete expression:

On one hand, with the reappraisal of the National Provident Fund (CNPS) and a better systematization of government strategy taking into account:

- the promotion of the social well-being through poverty alleviation measures ;
- the respect for human dignity;
- the extension of social security.

155- The implementation of this vision is assigned to three (03) Ministerial Departments created by Decree N°2004/320 of 08th December 2004 relating to organization of the Government.

Thus:

- the Ministry of 'Employment and Vocational Training is in charge of drawing up and implementing national employment policy, vocational training and integration into work environment ;
- the Ministry of Small and Medium-scale Enterprises, Social Economy and Craft Industry is in charge of defining and applying Government policy in the areas of SMEs, social economy and craft industry;
- the Ministry of Labour and Social Security is in charge of the preparation, implementation and evaluation of State policy and Programmes in the area of professional relations, status of workers and the provident fund.

156- Several other structures are operated alongside this provident fund to achieve its tasks: They include:

- The National Provident Fund;

- The National Employment Fund;
- National Observation of Employment and Vocational Training;
- National Employment Advisory Commission.

157- The government strategy thus defined allowed the State to efficiently address the problem of employment, although a few cumbersome procedures may still be noted here and there.

This reform revolves around two components:

- The rehabilitation of the National Provident Fund (CNPS) ;
- The reform in Social Security in Cameroon.

158- With regard to the implementation of this reform, the Government created by Order n°00086 of 13th April 1998, the Steering Committee in charge of the social rehabilitation of the National Provident Fund (CNPS) and the overall reform of the Social Security. The terms of reference drawn up at the end of discussions of the said Committee were adhered to and the National Provident Fund (CNPS) completely fulfilled the tasks assigned to it. Currently, there is an on-going consideration to review the social security policy in order to extend its coverage to more beneficiaries.

Sub-section 1: Restructuring of the National Provident Fund (Caisse Nationale de Prévoyance Sociale-(CNPS)

159- The information in the previous report is still up-to-date and valid.

Sub-section 2: Overall social security reform

160- Focusing essentially on the extension of the social security to social safety net and to sections of the population not yet covered, the study was to this end committed to firms that won the contracts, and which are ready to get down to the job and their provisional reports are being submitted progressively to the steering committee, for validation.

161- The aim of these reforms carried out by the government is to address the problems created by the economic crisis of the 90s which had serious consequences on employment. In fact, an analysis carried out by the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training shows that the economic recession brought about a rise in the unemployment rate, particularly among the youth and women. In addition, there was a drop in economic activity in the informal sector. Employers became reluctant to comply with the hygiene and security conditions, grant leave to employees, encourage the creation of trade unions and promote the right to go on strike.

162- The disposition to recruit in the public sector can be explained partly by the fact that, unlike the developed countries where the private sector is the engine of economic growth and where this deal is directly reflected in the social policy on employment, the State, in developing countries, is the main employer.

- 163- In 2006 particularly, many activities aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the right to work (**paragraph 1**) and social security (**paragraph 2**) were carried out in Cameroun.

Paragraph 1 : Factors for the promotion and protection of the right to work

- 164- The year 2006 was characterized by the strengthening of measures for facilitating employment (A), creation of trade unions (B), negotiation of collective agreements (C), settlement of many collective disputes (D), improvement of working conditions (E), taking into account vocational training (F), and exercising the right to go on strike (G).

A: Promotion and facilitation of employment

- 165- Promotion and facilitation of employment can be noticed through the analysis of the recruitment in the Civil Service (1), the assessment of the role played by the National Employment Fund (2), and above all, through the National Employment Policy drafting project (3).

1- Recruitment into the Civil Service

- 166- The figures below reflect a dynamic policy in terms of promotion of employment in 2006. In fact, the Civil Service recruited:

- 10 300 contract primary school teachers ;
- 3 000 part-time primary school teachers;
- 100 teachers in secondary technical education ;
- 100 veterinary nurses ;
- 10 Computer Engineers (MINFOPRA);
- 20 Eco-guards ;
- 19 Researchers (Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation).

- 167- The following statistical data capture the situation of students' admission in the Specialized Vocational Training Schools, to do their service in the Civil Service during the 2006/2007 year:

- Faculty of Medicine and Bio-Medical Sciences
- Medical Studies Programme : 90
- Biomedical and Medico-Sanitary Studies Programme
- Level 1 (First Degree) : 20
- Level 4 (Master's Degree) : 28
- Specialization Programme : 46
- School of Public Works
- Higher Civil Engineering Technician: 99
- Civil Engineering : 635
- Higher Rural Engineering Technician: 56
- Civil Engineering in Rural Development: 259

- Higher Topography Technician: 117
- National Institute of Youth and Sports
- Physical Education and Sports Teacher: 60
- Principal Advisor For Youth and Sports: 44
- Youth and Animation Advisor
- National Higher Polytechnic School : 566
- National Higher Posts and Telecommunications School
- Technical and Communications Officials' Programme: 50
- Postal Officials' Management Programme: 50

2- Facilitation of employment by the National Employment Fund

- 168-** During the 2005-2006 period, the National Employment Fund facilitated the employment of thirteen thousand four hundred and seventy (13,470) job seekers, trained one thousand five hundred and eighty two (1,582) persons from this category towards self-employment as well as two hundred and seventy six (276) young persons for possible recruitment. In addition, it financed eight hundred and thirty seven (837) micro projects.

3- Project on the Formulation of a National Employment Policy

- 169-** In a socio-economic context characterized by a high level of unemployment and an under employment that gives cause for concern, a context in which the absence of a coherent and articulate general outline document on national employment policy would, as a consequence, thwart the strong mobilization of resources to support employment and a better co-ordination of actions in that respect, the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training drew up a draft National Employment Policy Declaration (DPNE) in 2006.
- 170-** This Declaration, which has already been validated at the inter-departmental and National Labour Advisory Commission levels, presents the future National Employment Policy, notably in terms of:
- Its foundations ;
 - its context and justification ;
 - its objectives ;
 - the commitments that the government envisages to undertake;
 - the strategy to be adopted by the government ;
 - the monitoring/evaluation system which identifies the key actors, their roles including provision for monitoring – evaluation mechanisms of the National Employment Policy (PNE).
- 171-** Thus, through the National Employment Policy Declaration, the Government commits itself, in conformity with the provisions contained in Convention 122 of the ILO, to drawing up a National Employment Policy aimed at promoting full, productive, decent and freely chosen employment.

Specifically, the National Employment Policy will focus particularly on:

- stimulating economic growth and development;

- raising the standards of living of the population;
- developing human resources to meet labour needs ;
- addressing issues relating unemployment and under employment.

172- With regard to the National Employment Policy strategy, it is based on strategic principles and strategic thrusts. It aims at promoting productive employment, generating investment in all sectors and branches of the economy.

173- It is guided by the following principles:

- employment as an issue of national interest on which Cameroon's sustainable development depends and which needs the conscience of each and everyone;
- the level of growth and creation of decent and rewarding employment as an indicator of performance of the national economy and, consequently, of good governance;
- employment considered not only as a result of economic growth, but also and especially as an inducting factor of this growth;
- the promotion of decent employment for all as a strategic thrust for the fight against poverty and exclusion and as a *sine qua non* condition for a harmonious and sustainable development, guarantee of peace and social justice ;
- taking into account the cross-cutting nature and central role of employment in any economic and social policy.

174- Several projects are on-going regarding the promotion of employment of some specific groups, especially the youth for whom an employment plan has been available since the end of 2006. Other projects have been opened for women, handicapped persons, vulnerable groups and those who have been unemployed for a long period. The employment plans concerning them are in the process of being drawn up, as well as the Priority Investment for Employment Programme (PIPE). Support for this programme comprises studies carried out in partnership with the MINPLAPDAT and the ILO in 2005 and by the National Employment Policy which is undergoing a review.

On the sidelines of the studies, the MINEFOP continues to promote employment in the informal economy through the PIAASI project and some programmes of the National Employment Fund (FNE).

175- Concerning this project in particular, the number of applications for support increased from 3765 in 2005 to 4000 in 2006 over the entire national territory. Out of these 4000 applications, 2020 entered the gaps in the PIAASI market and the allocated amounts are in the region of 699 Million F CFA, that is, 71 Million F CFA per province. The branches requested by applicants are, in order of decreasing importance: agriculture, trade, garment industry, cottage industry and animal breeding.

176- At the same time and thanks to special financing by Government, the National Employment Fund (FNE) was able to integrate several young persons into the

economy, within the framework of conventions signed with the MINPMEESA and MINEFI. Thus, as part of the measures aimed at curbing unemployment, under employment and poverty, the National Employment Fund (FNE) found paid jobs for 54% out of 12 000 applicants, financed 63% of the projects out of 1375 applications and integrated into self-employment, 64% out of 2132 applications. These performances complement actions carried out by decentralized services where the National Employment Fund (FNE) intermediation services did not exist. The MINEFOP was able to operate through these channels of direct integration of job applicants into about one thousand small, medium and large-scale enterprises.

B: Creation of trade unions

- 177- One notices a renewal of trade union activity which was given expression in 2006, by the creation of forty six (46) new trade unions.

C: Negotiation of collective agreements

- 178- The Government negotiated and revised some collective agreements. Thus, on 08th December 2006, a collective agreement was signed between employers and employees of eight (8) security firms. Another collective agreement involving workers of the road sector transport and the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security was also signed. The collective agreements of hotel managers, petroleum products producers and refiners were revised. The Government has, in the same vein, standardized the salary scale of workers in the journalism, urban and inter-city transporters, and trade and sea transport sectors. The government philosophy which underpins all these actions is to guarantee job security, establish a viable security system for all and maintain a good relationship between the employee and the employer.

D: Settlement of collective labour disputes

- 179- Many collective and individual disputes have been resolved by the central and external services of the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare in 2006. These disputes were resolved through tripartite and ad hoc committee meetings. In terms of disputes settled through legal procedures, one can mention the cases of CAMPOST, CAMTEL, CAMAIR, *Cameroon Tea Estate of Ndu*, of Tole and Ndjuttisa as well as that of the Urban and Inter-city Transporters. CAMAIR, CAMTEL and CAMPOST were liquidated and the Government is not relenting in its efforts to pay the entitlements payable to the workers of the liquidated companies. In view of this, a series of meetings were held between the State and the workers, and during these meetings a payment time-series chart was designed. Thus, in 2006, almost all the workers concerned had already received their entitlements. It was also agreed that in the event of transfer of the company to a third party, laid off employees would be recruited as a matter of priority.
- 180- Companies in the sector, namely TOLE, NDU and NDUJITTISA were treated equally. Government instructed employers to pay the entitlements to

employees who may wish to discontinue working there, and improve working and living conditions of other employees. Some of these employees received part payments in 2006. But it must be emphasized that one of the priority objectives of these various measures is the manifestation of the goodwill in terms of net improvement of working conditions of employees.

E: Improvement of working conditions

- 181-** The start of a programme dubbed the Support Project for the Implementation of the Declaration relating to the Principles and Fundamental Rights to Work (PAMODEC), which is intended to promote and protect the rights of persons in their work place.
- 182-** In this context, hygiene and job security committees were created in 2006 within many companies. Fifteen (15) were in Douala in the Littoral Province, five (05) in Bertoua in the Eastern Province, one (01) in Yaoundé, the Central Province, two (02) in Figuil in the Northern Province, three (03) in the Western Province and two (02) in Kribi-Niète in the Southern Province. These committees were given the responsibility to promote hygiene and security within the various companies, preventing industrial accidents and occupational diseases.
- 183-** The fight against HIV/AIDS has been intensified within some companies thanks to State financing as the HIV/AIDS affects not only the worker's environment, but also and above all, his fundamental right to health. In addition, and in the same vein, committees were created within public establishments for combating the pandemic at work places. The Ministry of Defense was the first public administration to be involved in the HIV/AIDS control. The other Ministries, especially the Ministry of External Relations, the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the MINJUSTICE and many others followed suit in 2006.

But all these measures would not have achieved the desired effect if vocational training had not been effectively incorporated into the process envisaged.

F: Integration of vocational training

- 184-** Although the economic performance of Cameroon improved for nearly a decade (1995-2005), the positive trend has not translated significantly into increased employment opportunities or poverty reduction for the majority of the population. On the basis of this, the Education Sector Strategy (SSE) adopted in June 2006 affirms that vocational training must absorb, by 2015, at least 50% of graduates from primary, secondary and higher education. These young persons will benefit from trade-based vocational training to improve the external efficiency of the education system.

In fact, an analysis of the vocational training system in Cameroon today reveals four major problems namely:

- the weakness of the institutional and regulatory system ;
- the low supply in quality and quantity with regard to demand;
- Insufficient financial resources;
- The under optimization of human and material resources.

185- These problems can be explained from different angles.

With regard to the weakness of the institutional and regulatory system, one can point out:

- The absence of a vocational training policy ;
- An unsuitable legal and regulatory framework.

186- With regard to the low qualitative and quantitative supply, the following observations were made:

- Unadapted programmes ;
- Lack of training and professional information centres;
- The obvious lack of equipment and existence of obsolete infrastructure and equipment ;
- Insufficient subjects in vocational training ;
- The lack of quantitative and qualitative human resources;
- The under-utilization of vocational and career guidance system.

187- With regard to insufficient financial resources, we noted:

- The absence of an appropriate policy on financing vocational training ;
Low level of financing by other partners (households, enterprises.) for vocational training;
- A poor budgetary allocation to vocational training.
With regard to the under optimization of human and material resources, the causes could be:
The absence of strategic planning in terms of resources allocated to vocational training;
- Insufficient institutional capacities of the various actors in the sector.

G: Exercising the right to go on strike

188-1- The year 2006 saw a number of strikes by some professional trade unions and employees who were disenchanted with their working conditions. This was the problem faced by the National Trade Union of Haulage Contractors, Urban Transporters (taxi drivers), CAMPOST, ACIERIES, and the Part-time Primary School Teachers among others. The way and manner the Government managed these strikes showed its goodwill to promote peaceful coexistence within the social fabric.

188-2- In fact, the Government made many concessions in resolving the challenge posed by the strikes. For instance, it acceded to the request of taxi drivers who demanded the reduction of the number of police check points in the cities.

188-3- Some trainee teachers who thought they have exceeded their probation period, demanded to be integrated into the Civil Service; the Government acceded to their request, by recruiting over 10,000 Primary School Teachers on contractual basis.

Paragraph 2 : Social Security Reforms

189- The Government put in place a broad reform programme, to improve social security in Cameroon. In the quest for ways and means to find a big macroeconomic equilibrium and to regulate the social security sector, the State of Cameroon, in concert with the financial backers, decided to undertake:

- The rehabilitation of CNPS in the short term ;
- The reform of the social security system in Cameroon.

190- A Steering Committee in charge of the Rehabilitation of some aspects of the CNPS and social security reform, had already been put in place in 1998, and the social security reform strategy was validated by the Head of State in December 1999 in order to achieve the following:

- Guarantee the protection of social security funds;
- Ensure separate management of branches;
- Define the role of the State ;
- Broaden the material, personnel and professional scope of the social security;
- Fight against poverty and social exclusion.

191- To this end, about ten studies were conducted to ensure that inputs were made into the decisions. These studies focused on:

- the role of the State ;
- updating the studies carried out by the CNPS;
- the extension of social security to the informal sector and to sections of the population not yet covered under the programme;
- management of the transition;
- the study of health insurance;
- the study on health and social welfare under the CNPS;
- the use of the CNPS capital;
- social security of Civil Service personnel;
- the legal and institutional architecture of the social security system;
- financing the scheme.

192- In order to strengthen the collection of Social Security contributions, the national Assembly adopted law n° 2001/017 of 18 December 2001 assigning to the Internal Revenue Service, the jurisdiction in terms of calculation of the tax base and the collection of payroll taxes, to be paid to the CNPS by employers.

193- At the same time, work is on-going in respect of harmonizing national legislations on provident fund at the level of the Inter-African Conference on Provident Fund (CIPRES), with its related treaty being ratified by Cameroon in

1995 by decree n° 95/136 of 24th July 1995. The said treaty had been signed in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), on 22nd September 1993.

194- Within the framework of technical co-operation and harmonization, several assignments were carried out regarding:

- the exact determination of areas to be codified ;
- the definition of economic indicators and prudential ratios ;
- the application of the CIPRES accounting system by the CNPS which presents a faithful representation of this entity ;
- the determination of a CIPRES training programme and reform of existing training centres in member countries of the Inter-African Conference on Provident Fund.

195- Concerning the extension of the social security to sections of the population not yet covered to date, work is on-going in terms of drawing up a draft code on mutual insurance system in general and more specifically, the preparation of a first draft law on mutual health insurance system.

196- The preparation of draft laws on Provident Fund Policy started in 2005. Other laws on organization of the various social security structures have also been prepared. They pertain to:

- the National Provident Fund (FNPS) that will allow for the reform of the current National Provident Fund ;
- the National Fund for Civil Service Personnel (FNPF) which is meant for State employees and others in a similar category ;
- the National Fund for Health Insurance Personnel (FNAM) ;
- the Social Security Agencies in charge of registration, collection, regulation and control of the security organs;
- the Unemployment Insurance and;
- the Salary Arrears Guarantee Fund .

197-1- The Government employment policy includes the formal/informal sectors. The Government is determined to reform its policy with the view to employing more young persons. Similarly, it encourages self-employment by training and financing micro projects. In addition, the State encourages social groupings which the Government could more easily support in order to reach the grassroots; this will be done within the framework of its poverty reduction strategy and by extension, the improvement of the well being of the population.

197-2- In addition, it should be recalled that the Government has addressed the issue evolving appropriate measures to counter economic exploitation of children which will be dealt with in the section on children's rights.

SECTION II : THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

198- Health is a fundamental right, necessary for the enjoyment of other rights. From the perspective of the WHO, health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being, and not only the absence of disease or infirmity. In keeping with this vision, and in consideration of the Millennium Development Goals, the

State is committed to making sure each individual enjoys the highest possible state of physical and mental health, to ensure the respect of his dignity. To this end, it implemented the sector strategy presented in the previous report.

199- The key health indicators that worsened considerably between 1991 and 1998, have since then, continued to show a constant net improvement. Consequently, one would be right to affirm that with the implementation of the health sector strategy adopted in October 2001, the action of the State, supported by partners, will enable it to achieve the objectives announced in the previous report.

Expected level of the key health indicators		
Indicators	1998	2015
neonatal mortality rate (per 1000)	37.2	10.4
infant mortality rate (per 1000)	77	21.7
juvenile mortality rate (per 1000)	79.9	21.9
infant-juvenile mortality rate (per 1000)	150.7	42,1
malnutrition rate (12-23 months) (%)	44	16.0
maternal mortality rate (100.000 live births)	430	107.5
Source: EDS 1991 and 1998 Millennium Summit Document		

General Disease Control

200- The disease control programme is directed at 3 major components. The first component pertains to the control of the big endemic diseases in terms of public health such as malaria, leprosy, onchocerciasis, blindness, African human trypanosomiasis, Guinea worm, and schistosomiasis. The second component concerns the control of some chronic diseases, namely high blood pressure, diabetes, epilepsy, sickle cell disease, cancers, asthma, rheumatism, deafness and mouth-dental diseases. The third component pertains to the control of epidemic diseases, notably cholera, measles, cerebro-spinal meningitis, and payment of medical bills of emergency cases resulting from natural disasters and accidents. The fourth and last component concerns the control of tuberculosis and STI/AIDS, for which a specific programme was adopted in September 2000.

Health sector strategy

201- The health sector strategy, as presented in the previous report is an up-to-date one. Its key objectives include:

- reducing, at least by 1/3, the overall morbidity and the mortality rate of the most vulnerable groups of the population;
- putting in place a margin for 90% of the population, health training programme that takes into account the minimum activity package (PMA) ;
- ensuring an efficient and effective resource management in 90% of the health training institutions as well as public and private health services at different levels of the pyramid.

This report will dwell on an interim evaluation of the health sector strategy.

Status of implementation of the health sector strategy

202- To date, over 60% of the healthcare and services delivery programmes adopted within the framework of the health sector strategy have been implemented, in respect of the 10 provinces of Cameroon, as against less than 45% regarding the support programmes.

The table below gives quite an exhaustive summary of the implementation of the programmes in the interim:

Programme	Number of provinces
Healthcare and services delivery programmes	
Programme 31 disease control	
Communicable diseases sub-programme	
Malaria	10/10
Leprosy	10/10
Buruli Ulcer	3/4
African Trypanosomiasis	2/2
Guinea worm	2/2
Schistosomiasis	0/10
Sub-programme 312 : Non communicable diseases	
Non communicable diseases	4/10
Sub-programmes 313 : STI/HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis control	
STI/HIV/AIDS	10/10
Tuberculosis	10/10
Sub-programme 314 : payment of medical bills in respect of emergency cases, Epidemic diseases and natural disasters	
Paying medical bills for emergency cases, epidemic diseases and natural disasters	2/10
Sub-programme 315 : Mouth-dental diseases	
Bucco-dental diseases	0/10
Sub-programme 316 : deafness	
Deafness	0/10
Sub-programme 317 : blindness /onchocerciasis	
Blindness	4/10
Onchocerciasis	9/10
Programme 32 : Reproductive health	

Sub-programme 321 : Maternal, adolescent and older persons health	
Maternal, adolescent and older persons health	4/10
Sub-programme 322 : PEV	
PEV	10/10
Sub-programme 323 : PCIME	
PCIME	5/10
Programme 33 : Health Promotion	
Sub-programme IEC	
IEC	5/10
Sub-programme 332 : Food and nutrition	
Food and	2/10
Sub-programme 333 : mental health and Human behaviour	
Mental health and human behaviour	2/10
Sub-programme 334 : Water, hygiene and environment	
Water, hygiene and environment	4/10
Programme 34 : Reactive medicines and essential medical devices	
Reactive medicines and essential medical devices	10/10
Support Programme	
Programme 35 : Health Financing	
Sub-programme 351 : establishment of a tariff system By medical care protocol	5/10
Sub-programme 352 : Increasing State budget and its liquidity	3/10
Programme	Number of province
Sub-programme 353 : mutualisation of health risk in financing health	0/10
Programme 36 : Management process	
Sub-programme 361 : Improving financial management of the health sector	2/10
Sub-programme 362 : Infrastructure and equipment management	3/10
Sub-programme 363: Human resource management	4/10
Sub-programme 364 : Health information system management	5/10
Sub-programme 365 : Support for Planning	2/10
Programme 37 : Improving service delivery	

Sub-programme 371 : Human resource development	3/10
Sub-programme 372 : Infrastructure and equipment Development	2/10
Sub-programme 373 : Hospital reform	5/10
Sub-programme 374 :Medical care standards and qualities (Medical care protocols)	4/10
Programme 38 : Institutional development	
Sub-programme 381 : Institutional capacity building	0/10
Sub-programme 382 : Partnerships development	7/10

Source: *evaluation of the health sector strategy*

Table: national average of proportion of on-going programmes as at December 2006

Programme 31 : disease control	6/14
Programme 32 : reproductive health	1,6/3
Programme 33 : health promotion	0,2/10
Programme 34 : reactive medicines and essential medical devices	1/1
Number of healthcare and services delivery programmes implemented	8,8/22
Support programme	
Programme 35 : health financing	0/3
Management programme	2/5
Programme 37 : Improving service delivery	1/4
Programme 38 : Institutional development	0/2
Number of support programmes implemented	3/14
Total programmes implemented	11,6/36

Source: *Mid-term review of the health sector strategy*

203-1- Malaria control: Malaria is an endemic disease that gives cause for the greatest concern for health officials in Cameroon, because it is the leading cause of mortality in that country. To address this situation, a malaria control programme has been designed within the framework of the implementation of the sector strategy. It contributed to making government policy more visible through:

- an increase In the resources allocated to the said programme ;
- facilitation of the distribution of treated mosquito nets for prevention in the provinces, reviewing treatments, infrastructure and equipment development;

- an improvement in decentralization for the implementation of programmes.

203-2- The mid-term review of this programme enables us to appreciate the actual progress in terms of a better control of this endemic disease, taking into account the findings of the demographic and health survey EDS 3 carried out in 2004, and the multiple indicators survey carried out in 2006. For example, 57.6% of children benefitted from an appropriate treatment in 2006, as against 53.1% in 2004, the objective is to achieve 60%.

204-1- Tuberculosis: the perspectives for action, announced in the previous report, have, in most cases, been achieved in spite of a few difficulties suffered here and there.

204-2- Thus, the operationalization of a Central Technical Group with a permanent Secretariat and provincial branches, has made it possible for the tuberculosis control programme to cover the entire national territory and ensure that the cost of treatment to 5000 F CFA across the board.

204-3- In addition, a diagnostic and treatment centre, to receive 100.000 patients, has been opened. It functions with the support of the DOTS strategy.

These combined efforts enabled us to reduce the rate of spreading (infection) of this pandemic.

205-1- Onchocerciasis control: This is aimed at:

- Effective distribution of ivermectine (mectizan) ;
- effective inclusion of the community in this sub-programme ;
- Involvement of personnel and the community ;
- Early declaration of diseases on weekly basis ;
- Effective involvement of community radios;
- Effective involvement of community relays;
- Involvement of personnel and closely related sectors (free distribution of vitamin A, inclusion of the community).

205-2- Expanded programme of immunization: Within the framework of the implementation of the health sector strategy, the expanded programme of immunization has improved significantly.

Sub-Section 1: Combating AIDS, a priority for the Government

206. As indicated in the previous report, the Government actually adopted a strategic plan to combat AIDS for the period 2000 – 2005. The purpose of this plan was to reverse the trend of the pandemic, reduce the prevalence by 10% and that of HIV by 25% among the youth, the security agencies and the womenfolk. The implementation of the said plan took place within the context of improving the multilateral and decentralized management programmes. The focus was to bring future Cameroonian generations between the ages of 5 and 14 years to adopt a healthy lifestyle within the context of the HIV/AIDS,

and for adults to understand that they live in a world of HIV/AIDS; thus the need to adopt responsible sexual behaviours and the Cameroonian society to demonstrate deep-rooted solidarity in its support for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

207. Apart from the noteworthy achievements made during the period 2001 – 2004, it must be pointed out that the following far-reaching actions were carried out with the view to reversing the trend of the pandemic. Thus, the activities were extended to the District Health Centres to ensure:

- the strengthening of the prevention programmes for the benefit of the youth and women through the distribution of 12.937.394 condoms out of which 61.800 were female condoms;
- the free and confidential testing by mobile teams of tens of thousands of persons with about 6% of them testing positive;
- the strengthening of testing and counseling services of people suffering from tuberculosis as a mechanism for managing persons living with the HIV/AIDS through anti-retrovirals (ARV) and treatment of opportunistic infections;
- the home-based treatment and the extension of activities relating to prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child in accordance with the approach adopted by the District Health Centre.

208. From the infrastructural perspective, the Government established about twenty approved treatment Centres (CTA) and more than 60 care units for the fight against HIV/AIDS. All these functional institutions are capable of handling about 30.000 patients. The stocks of anti-retrovirals corresponding to this level of demand were also made available.

209. Furthermore, the operational plan of the health sector for HIV/AIDS control for the period extending from 2006 to 2010 was designed and officially launched on 1st March, 2006 by the Prime Minister and Head of Government. Funds from the Fifth Round Global Funds from the WHO, the OPEC and UNICEF were disbursed for the execution of the following activities:

- a proper decentralization to ensure greater efficiency;
- a better programme structuring from the lower echelons to the upper echelons;
- the facilitation of coordination of the EPI in the rural communities;
- drugs, reagents and medical devices;
- National Pharmaceutical Master Plan;
- Emergencies, pandemics and national disasters;
- Health Care Funding.

- 210. Cameroon adopted an all round policy to combat HIV/AIDS, comprising NGOs, other civil society organizations and traditional rulers. The National AIDS Control Committee (CLNS) signed agreements with private companies as well as religious denominations.
- 211. Furthermore, the Government adopted a policy to promote greater access to anti-retroviral treatments under the combined effect of grants provided by the Head of State, the Global AIDS and Malaria Fund as well as by other UN institutions, the “Access” and Introduction of Generic Drugs Programme, thus gradually reducing the average monthly cost of treatment. The number of sick persons undergoing treatment increased tenfold.
- 212. Moreover, the treatment centres were strengthened and biological monitoring also rationalized in collaboration with various International Institutions on a wide-range of thematic areas in the field of genetics, Clinical trials, epidemiological surveillance and vaccines.
- 213. Furthermore, Cameroon supports regional initiatives just like Africa Synergies, the Association of First Ladies of Africa, launched in 2002 by Mrs. Chantal BIYA, whose flagship programme is geared towards the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV in the countries involved.

On the achievement of the health sector strategy in general

- 214. The mid-term review, the indicators on the level of achievements generally give an indication that most of the projected results for 2010 will be achieved with only slight variations. In fact, malaria, the PCIME (Integrated Care for Childhood Diseases, Food and Nutrition) are behind schedule in terms of attainment of the set objectives.
- 215. As far as malaria is concerned, the population complained about not having treated nets for the prevention of malaria including drugs for its treatment. This situation is, to a large extent, attributable to the bottlenecks in the release of the projected funds under the HIPC initiative.

REPRODUCTION PROGRAMME

Sub-Section 2: Health of mothers, teenagers and older persons.

- 216.1 Taken from a national perspective, the percentage of pregnant women vaccinated against tetanus increased by 6 points between 2004 and 2006. However, there was a 3% shift in Douala and 5% in Yaoundé.
- 216.2 The proportion of pregnant women assisted by qualified personnel however fell between 2000 and 2004. This drop occurred in Cameroon between 2004 and 2006 with the rate falling from 61.8% to 58.9%. The lowest rates were in the Northern provinces. The Government intends to increase the number of health centres in this part of the country by bringing these facilities closer to the target population and improving the indicator in this region.

- 216.3 The rate of maternal mortality is estimated at 659 deaths per 100.000 live births for the period between 1998 ad 2004 as against 459 between 1991 and 1997.
- 216.4 The percentage of women between 15 and 49 years using at least one mode of modern contraception at the national level, though low, witnessed an upward adjustment, which situation however conceals huge disparities within the provinces. In fact, the use of contraceptives is very high in the major cities particularly in Douala and Yaoundé and in the Southern Province.
217. Generally, the Authorities pursued the policy of addressing the health concerns of mothers all over the nation by providing a minimum package of activities in the form of curative, preventive and promotional health care through the health pyramid and the promotion of a health approach reproduction adapted to the demands of adolescents/youth and the strengthening of operational research in terms of reproductive health.

Child Feeding and Nutrition

218. Through analysis, the broad orientations contained in the previous reports continued to be areas of concern to the Government. Thus, major actions were undertaken in the following areas, contributing to the significant improvement in public health.

219.1 **Health Promotional Outreach:** This programme provided a platform for the active involvement and sensitization of the population in all aspects likely to contribute to the improvement of their well being.

219.2 Major steps were taken within the context of the fight against smoking, particularly the creation of a Group of Experts on Smoking. This institutional action led to a complete ban on advertisements and the strict tagging of tobacco and tobacco products, drugs, reagents and essential medical devices: all public health institutions are provided with supplies of essential drugs in their generic form, reagents and essential medical devices.

220.1 In view of the efforts deployed by the Government, there is every reason to assert that by 2010, the public authorities will be in a position to:

- provide essential drugs, preferably in their generic form, reagents and essential medical devices to at least 70% of the population in all the public health institutions;
- ensure quality in terms of medical analyses and pharmaceutical products used in Cameroon;
- ensure that a large proportion of health personnel ensure the rational utilization of pharmaceutical products;
- ascertain that more than half of consumers use essential pharmaceutical products rationally;

- develop by at least 10% the potential of identified local curative resources by 2010;
- as at now, the generic forms are available in all health care institutions.

220.2 In short, conscious of the shortcomings identified in the implementation of the health sector strategy, the Government of Cameroon opted for a review of certain portions of the strategy with the aim of securing greater coherence with the realities on the ground while taking into consideration the recommendations contained in the MDGs.

221. Regarding the need for coherence, the issue was to undertake the following actions:

- stem the quantitative and qualitative shortfall in health personnel (recruitment and refresher courses, etc.)
- strengthen the system of data collection regarding health;
- provide inputs, drugs and establish new units to ensure that health care is provided to sick persons;
- sensitize the population and guarantee a better follow-up care for the sick;
- provide logistical and financial support and strengthen the existing infrastructure;
- create at the central administration level, mechanisms to facilitate programme integration and cohesion;
- strengthen integrated surveillance of the Guinea worm disease in all health districts;
- reactivate programmes put on hold and reinvigorate ongoing ones;
- comply with the timelines and action plans;
- extend programmes to all district health centres.

222. In terms of the implementation of the health sector strategy in keeping with the MDGs, the focus shall be on a certain number of issues, notably to:

- improve the working conditions within the health care facilities;
- closely link up the external service and decentralized service officials to the process of budgetary preparation;
- create an integrated budgetary and health information system in the medium term;
- design a policy for the dissemination and popularization of the Health Sector Strategy at the operational units;
- strengthen the sensitization system among the population regarding transmissible diseases such as AIDS;
- ensure better management of stocks to do away with disruptions in supplies;
- equip the health care institutions with specialized equipment with the view to attaining the MDGs.
- intensify the mechanisms for health promotion in the fight against transmissible, non transmissible and emerging diseases with an increased and more qualitative community participation, an emphasis on integrated communication services and advocacy for health programmes;

- finalize, adopt and popularize all strategic and legislative documents for the promotion of health;
- give greater priority to mental health, the fight against drug addiction, smoking.... through actual implementation of related activities (institutional visibility at all levels).

223. **Promotion and support for maternal breastfeeding**

223.1 23.5% of babies are fed exclusively through breastfeeding. The annual celebration of the Global Week on Breastfeeding is the occasion for the promotion and support for strict breastfeeding.

223.2 At the same, sentinel sites are monitoring the implementation of Decree No.2005/5168/PM of 1st December 2005, on the sales regulation of breast milk substitutes.

223.3 Furthermore, hospitals in Cameroon participate in the competition dubbed: *Baby Friendly Hospitals (Hospitaux Amis des Enfants)*. Since 8th May, 2008, the new Africa Coordinator is James Achay Fontem, a Cameroonian and a retired journalist, who will preside over the destiny of the Global Agency for Maternal Breastfeeding, a group made up of 120 countries.

SECTION III: THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Article 17 paragraph 1

225. The preamble to the Constitution and international legal instruments, particularly Articles 13 and 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) establish the right to education. The fulfillment of this right requires the State to guarantee that “educational institutions and educational programmes exist in large numbers within the jurisdiction of the State party”. Similarly, it is important that education be dispensed in a reasonably accessible location (for example a school in the neighbourhood) or dispensed through modern technologies (for example through distance learning).

226. The measures taken by the Government were thus directed at a new organization of primary education focused on the improvement in the quality and enhancement in the provision of education (Sub-section 1), the reform of secondary education (sub-section 2) and control of higher education which is undergoing changes (section 3).

Sub-section 1: A new organization of primary education focused on improvement in quality and provision of education.

227. The organization of primary education concerns both measures taken to facilitate educational access and innovation in the instructional approach at the basic education level. The education will henceforth adopt a new type of logic in the implementation of the educational/learning process. It promotes the ability of pupils to make inferences, find out implied facts, make assumptions,

verifications, analysis of issues and summarise them. From the foregoing, the child becomes an actor of his own learning process, thus making the master an unobtrusive guide. This participatory method or approach in practical terms facilitates the appropriation by the child of his rights and their correct utilization. This reform is bolstered by the development of school infrastructure, increase in budgetary outlays earmarked for basic education and the use of relevant instructional approaches including recruitment of new teachers. The thrusts of the reform can therefore be based on the following:

- increased access to universal primary education (§1);
- improvement in the quality of education (§2)
- increase in educational services (§3)
- creation of a basic education map with supporting figures on yearly basis.

Paragraph 1: Increased access to Universal Primary Education

The increased access is based on free public primary education (A), the continuation of the fight against disparities between boys and girls (B) and the enhancement of the gender dimension (C).

A. Free public primary education

228. The free public primary education policy adopted and started in 2001 will still be pursued to bring in a lot of children into the numerous public primary schools. Notwithstanding certain persisting problems, particularly the fact that some head teachers continue to make access of children to the school dependent on the payment of Parents Teachers' Association fees which are optional, many parents opt for public schools instead of the private ones where schools fees are often high.
229. Between 2000 and 2008, it was noted that the access rate into public kindergartens was 16.5% and 95.6% in the primary schools. With regard to kindergarten, notable efforts were deployed by the Government with the support of the Cameroonian Association for the Promotion of Kindergartens (ACAPPEM), recognized for being of public interest in line with Decree No.2006/235 of 25th July, 2006.
230. Thus, the rate of pre-school education increased from 17.4% in 2007 to about 21% in 2008. The pre-school at community level which was non-existent a few years ago, has a total of 5360 children today. The Government has continued to motivate the private sector in the development of formal pre-school educational services by maintaining the subvention per child at the current level. In addition, the communities will be encouraged to develop pre-school services in the underprivileged rural areas, by providing a subvention per child ten times higher than in the official pre-schools (7% of GDP/inhabitant). The declared target is to enroll about 80,000 children in the Community Preschool Centres (CPC) by 2020.
231. It must be pointed out that the enrolment rate was 16.5% in the kindergarten and 10.4% at the basic level in 2006. The target of the above-mentioned Decree is to close the gap by improving on the pre-school educational services.

B. Fight against disparities between boys and girls to ensure the promotion of the gender dimension: actions are ongoing.

232. Measures aimed at stemming the problem of disparities between boys and girls are carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, the UNICEF, FAO/WFP, the Ministry of Basic Education and the Ministry of Social Welfare. These measures vary according to their implementation in the formal or non-formal educational system.

1. Measures taken in the formal education system.

233. Measures taken in the formal educational system to close the disparity gap and promote quality among the sexes are focused on:

- the consideration of orientations of the Educational Sector Strategy which highlight gender equality-related concerns;
- the elimination of fees payable in the public primary schools to ensure free primary education and the continuation of the distribution of small packages;
- the granting of scholarships based on a 40% quota for girls;
- the production of innovative instructional kit on the education of girls;
- the establishment of a "School Textbooks and Teaching Materials Accreditation Council" whose terms of reference, among others, are to analyze discriminatory stereotypes;
- the implementation of the programme dubbed "acceleration of girl child education"
- the granting of scholarships to award winning girls in the official examinations with the view to promoting excellence among women;
- support to the families;
- advocacy within the educational community.

2. Measures taken in the non formal educational system

234. To reduce the disparities and promote gender equality, specific tasks were allotted to some public administrations in charge of non formal education which pursued their actions in 2006, 2007 and 2008. The Ministries were as follows:

- The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs which provides oversight responsibility over the womenfolk through Centres for the Development of Women;
- The Ministry of Social Affairs responsible for the creation and rehabilitation of training and development centres for girls who fail to complete basic education; it is also responsible for support to vulnerable families and communities;
- The Ministry of Youth which provides training and ensures the development of young girls in Youth Leadership Training Centres and Clubs

- The Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training which is in charge of Accelerated Vocational Training Centres for office employees and industrial artisans.

Paragraph 2: Improvement in the quality of Education

235. The quality of education with measurable impact can be evaluated through school performance appraisals as a result of the reorganization of primary education based on the reduction of repeaters and the division of the academic year into appropriate appraisal sequences (A) and the use of diversified and supplementary educational methods (B).

235.1 The option for the reduction of the repeaters and the division of the academic year into appropriate appraisal sequences.

235.2 This strategy is implemented through the Education Project II, the division of the academic year and the system of wholesale promotion.

A. The division of the academic year into appropriate appraisal sequences.

236. The academic year is divided into six (06) parts each being of six weeks duration. The fifth week of each part is devoted to appraising the pupils to determine their shortcomings and assist them to upgrade their levels.

237. The advantage of this division is to ensure the harmonization of the time for the various lessons to be taught by taking into account the weekly programmes. The compliance with the Programme enables the inspector responsible for teaching programmes to evaluate the specific stage in the programme where teachers have reached at a particular point of time in the year. It also helps to determine the grounds covered in the annual school syllabus.

238. This division of the academic year into stages offers tangible benefits if the institution is provided with qualified personnel in adequate numbers or better still when the causes of the class interruptions are less and do not disrupt the outlined programme.

Reduction of repeaters and review of the wholesale promotion system.

239. The Government signed Order No. 315/B1/1464/MINEDUB on 24th February, 2006 fixing the modalities for the promotion of pupils at the basic level. By this the economy seeks to reduce the number of school repeaters. Under the terms of the above-mentioned Order, the primary school is divided into three levels:

- Level 1: Primary Class 1 and 2 (introduction to reading and preparatory classes)
- Level 2: Primary Class 3 and 4 (CE 1 and 2)
- Level 3: Primary Class 5 and 6 (CM 1 and 2)

240. This reform underlined by the wholesale promotion system signified that all pupils enrolled in a class be promoted to a higher class within the same cycle. This system presupposes that the teacher has provided good quality teaching and that the lessons had been fully understood by the pupils and that after the assessment all the children of the same class had achieved a minimum level to merit promotion into a higher class.
241. The first approach of the wholesale promotion system consists of training children in such a way that repeating in the same cycle is avoided, that is from Primary 1 to 2 for example. The second approach consists of avoiding repeating between the cycles.
242. The actions of the Government are supported by UNICEF under the project “Children Friendly, Girls’ Friendly School” which, within the context of the wholesale promotion system functions in priority education zones so as to reduce repeating and drop out rates among girls and boys. The strategy consists of making the school environment attractive by providing water points and beautification of the location.
243. The Education Project II funded by the African Development Bank also supports this effort which consists in integrating the compensatory teaching method. This method is applied after a working session with the pupils, during which the teacher finds out the lapses and the data, and then compares them to the majority of the pupils. After categorizing these lapses, he teaches the pupils outside normal class hours until their standard improves.
244. In 2006 and 2007, the average rate of repeating actually dropped. Thus, in the Anglophone sub-system, the rate was 19.40% as against 26.40% in the Francophone primary sub-system. The completion rate at the basic education level on the other hand attained a rate of 56%.

B. Use of different instructional and supplementary approaches

245. To improve the internal efficiency of the system, two major educational approaches were implemented in the majority of schools and they combine the educational objectives with the aptitudes of the pupils.

1. The new educational approach

246. The new educational approach draws inspiration from the levels of thought espoused by BLOOM, notably:
- Knowledge;
 - Understanding;
 - Diligence;
 - Analysis.
247. With the introduction of Human rights in the official syllabi in the primary schools, it was observed that the approach is the best and most appropriate in seeking to attain the expected results from the pupils.

3. The approach through aptitude and educational integration

This approach concerns the pupils, the teachers, the designers and publishers of school textbooks. It also concerns parents.

248. The aptitude approach in class consists of:

- Specifying two or three aptitudes that each pupil must have developed at the end of the cycle, level or lesson, and this is applicable to every discipline or group of disciplines. These aptitudes are viewed as “fundamental aptitudes”.
- Based on the aptitudes, defining what the pupil must develop as acquired knowledge, know-how and inter-personal skills. This definition is provided by the teacher on the basis of curriculum developed in the form of objectives of his lessons or activities. The issue is that the teacher must cultivate the habit of educating by way of objectives”.
- Further demonstrating to the pupil what his knowledge can be used for. Thus, for example, grammar will not be treated just for the fun of it but for purposes of reading and writing. This method will help to further motivate the pupils.

249. The approach through skills also helps to put the pupil before complex situations that call for the application of the knowledge acquired. Such situations are close to what obtains in everyday life. In this context, problem solving as contained in the New Educational Approach is of very high priority.

250 – 1 the teaching method described above is implemented gradually, the teachers are trained to plan and evolve lessons from specific objectives which allow pupils to acquire the necessary resources to develop their skills.

250 – 2 the question is that at the end of every stage, a period of integration will be incorporated to allow the pupils to develop their skills by applying the newly acquired resources. The evaluation in this context is of much more educational value and helps to better target the kind of support to be given to the pupil who is facing difficulties.

C. Monitoring and evaluation of academic performance

251. The monitoring of teaching and evaluation of performance is carried out by:

- designing record forms;
- regular inspections in the schools;
- organizing educational days;
- preparing, monitoring the examination process and the publication of results.

252. The following results were recorded at the end of examinations organized in 2006.

CEP: Primary School Certificate

- Registered	:	227 831
Present	:	222 509
Passed:	:	159 037
Rate of Success:	:	72.14%

FSLC: First School Leaving Certificate

- Registered	:	69 475
Present	:	68 822
Passed	:	51 162
Rate of success	:	77.79%

COMMON ENTRANCE

- Registered	:	38 509
Present	:	38 015
Passed	:	24 532
Rate of success	:	59.26%

CAPIEPM: Certificate of Competency as Professional Kindergarten and Primary School Teachers

- Registered	:	2 313
Present	:	2 302
Passed	:	2 295
Rate of success	:	99.14%

Paragraph 3: Expanding access to education

253. The Government is committed to gradually increasing the budgetary allocation for Education from 15% to 22% in the coming years. As an illustration, the budget for Basic Education increased from 103 500 000 000 FCFA in 2006 to 121 929 000 000 FCFA in absolute value terms and 17.2% in relative value terms. The portion allocated to primary education also increased from 35.8% to 36.8% during the same period. However, these resources are inadequate in view of the problems identified within the sectors.

A. Increment in the budget of the Department responsible for Basic Education and various contributions

254. By reaching the completion point of the HIPC Initiative on 27th April 2006, Cameroon was able to obtain additional resources for poverty reduction and improvement in the quality of education. An analysis of the educational sector strategy revealed that funding of basic education is focused essentially on family responsibility. The survey carried out in households “ECA 1” showed that recurrent expenditure of families was 44% of the total expenditure for primary education. The proportion of the Government budget for education is only 15% of the budget. In 2008, this outlay increased by 1.6%, representing 16.6% of the Government budget. In concrete terms, the said budget increased from 125.368.000.000 FCFA in 2008 to 153.102.000.000 FCFA in 2009; which represents an increase in GDP from 0.98% in 2007 to 1.14% in 2008.
255. This proportion is meant as a matter of priority for the payment of salaries which absorbs about 86%. Funds obtained from the “Fast-track Initiative” Programme helped Cameroon to consolidate the educational orientation programme through recruitment and improvement in the status of part-time teachers. Other funding opportunities including the C2D contribution (Deleveraging and Development Contract) are expected to improve considerably the performance of the educational system, destroyed by ten years of economic crisis.
256. Many cooperation projects undertaken in collaboration with organizations and NGOs were implemented to reactivate the Cameroonian educational system. One can recall the Educational Reform Support Programme (PARE), the Educational System Support Programme (PASE) or the “Support of Guidance of Early Childhood in the Northern Province” under the auspices of UNICEF; all these actions aimed at the qualitative improvement of Education have been reinforced. The Programme of School Construction dubbed the Champions of the Chantal BIYA Foundation, have been handed over to the Ministry of Basic Education.
257. The actions of these entities can be extended to the domain of new infrastructural developments. Thus, the “Education Project II”, the “Japanese Grant”, the FCB Grant”, “Plan Cameroon” contributed to the rehabilitation of equipment and construction of classrooms in the country. The World Food Programme (WFP) provided food assistance to the primary schools in the provinces classified as priority educational zones.

B. Infrastructural development

258. Within the context of infrastructural development, it is important to indicate that efforts already deployed by the Government in terms of construction and equipping of classrooms, rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and work execution in collaboration with various partners were continued in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Thus:
- 1442 new classrooms equipped with table benches were constructed in the public primary schools;

- 105 classrooms were also rehabilitated in public schools;
- 12 public primary schools benefitted from the construction of hedges;
- 162 schools benefitted from the construction of latrine blocks;
- 10 kindergartens were built;
- 20 classrooms were rehabilitated at this level of education.

These statistics which were applicable to 2006, improved drastically in 2007 and 2008. For example, in 2008, basic education recorded an additional increase of 1458 new classrooms.

C. The recruitment of 13.300 new teachers

259. In 2006, 13,300 teachers were recruited into the Public Service to serve in primary schools. Their salaries and emoluments were included in the State budget which received support from some foreign partners in the execution of this major activity. It must be underscored that all the new teachers hold basic professional certificates in teaching and the proportion of qualified teachers in 2006 was 41% in the kindergarten and 73% in basic education.
260. Thus, in 2006, the number of teachers stood at 12,349 for 217,284 pupils in the pre-primary level while at the basic education level it was 72,827 teachers for 3,120,357 pupils. The shortfall in teaching personnel in the public primary schools reduced relatively with the recent recruitments of 5,525 new teachers in 2008 within the context of contracting former elementary school teachers on part-time basis. This brought the number of newly recruited teachers to 24,325 under the said activity.

Paragraph 4 – Factors for the improvement of access in the primary school in 2008

261. The schooling indicators at the basic education level in 2008 suggest an increase in public resources (1), and a growth in the pre-school coverage (2) including an upward trend in the Gross Enrolment Ratio at the basic education level (3).

A. Resources mobilized in support of Basic Education increased significantly.

262. The recurrent public resources for the basic education sector as a ratio of the revenue generated by the country stood at 16.6% in 2008 representing an increase compared to the 2007 fiscal year, though it was far below the projected value set under the Educational Sector Strategy. For instance the budget of the Ministry of Basic Education increased from 125,368,000,000 FCFA in 2008 to 153,102,000,000 FCFA in 2009.
263. Furthermore, the recurrent expenditure for primary education as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 0.98% in 2007 increased to 1.14% in 2008.

264. On the other hand, the cost of education per child admitted into a public school in 2008 was high (18.4% GDP/capita). The challenge is to bring it down to 15%. Concerning private schooling at the primary level, the subvention granted to every pupil in 2008 was 0.7% of GDP/capita.
265. The efforts deployed by the Government during the year in terms of construction of new school infrastructure made it possible for the Ministry of Basic Education to build 1458 additional new classrooms. This action was intended to respond to the ever-increasing demand for education of the young child in the community.
266. In the context of the increase in educational access, the Ministry of Basic Education recruited 5,525 new teachers in 2008 under the exercise of contracting former elementary school teachers on part-time basis, which brings the number of teachers recruited to 24,325 since the beginning of the said activity.
267. This action marks the realization of the commitments made by the Government, with the support of its Technical and Financial Development Partners to increase with time the presence of teaching personnel all over the country. It must be recalled that under the said programme, it is projected that by 2011, 37,200 new teachers will be recruited.

B. The Pre School coverage increased from 17.4% in 2007 to 21% in 2008

268. With regard to the improvement of access and equity, the pre-school rate increased from 17.4% in 2007 to about 21% in 2008. The Community pre-schools which were non-existent a few years ago, now factor the private sector into the development of formal pre-school education by maintaining the subvention per child at its current level. But in particular, the communities will be encouraged to provide pre-school educational services in under-privileged rural areas by making expenses, depending on the simulation model, that will help in attaining the objectives specified in the Educational Sector Strategy of a subvention per child that is 10 times higher than the formal pre-school education (7% GDP/person). The objective of the project is to enroll about 80,000 children in Community Pre-school Centres (CPC) by 2020.

C. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in 2008 was 104%

269. At the primary level, the school going population in 2008 went beyond 3 million with a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 104%. The number of children actually enrolled at the primary level went up to 3,202,511. In 2008, the private sector trained 22.8% of the total number of pupils, representing a 2 percentage point drop in favour of the public sector as compared to the preceding "academic year 2006/2007." The improvement in educational access and the quality of supervision in the public sector will help reduce the total number of pupils sent to primary schools.

- 270.1 With regard to the indicators on the intake of pupils at the primary level, which is the subject of the partnership review between the national Government and the regions of the country, they do not pose any real problem for our educational system. On the contrary, difficulties occur in terms of completion of the cycle though in the last 5 years, significant progress has been achieved as far as this indicator is concerned and it also serves as the barometer for the determination of the Universal Primary Education (UPE).
- 270.2 The completion rate in the Francophone sub-system of 56% in 2004 increased to 67.6% in 2008, thus gaining an average of 3 percentage points per annum over the period. For the Anglophone sub system, with an outstanding performance, the completion rate increased from 82.5% in 2004 to 87.3% in 2008.
271. On the other hand, the Educational Sector Strategy projects a drastic reduction in the rate of repeating. Thanks to the necessary administrative, educational and communication measures, the rate of repeating attained the expected target in 2008. While the Francophone sub-system was 18%, that of the Anglophone sub-system went beyond the level earmarked, settling at 12.2% instead of the projected 13% for 2008.
272. In the area of human resources, the reduction in the unknown factors concerning the distribution of teaching personnel in the public primary schools remains a daunting task for the Ministry of Basic Education. From 45% of unknown factors in 2002/2003, it now stands at 39%. The capacity building of personnel from the Central government and decentralized authorities in the area of decentralized personnel management and techniques for reducing the unknown factors initiated under the Educational System Support Programme (PASE) will provide the necessary boost to attain a minimum level of unpredictable factors to 22%.

Paragraph 5: Reinforcing the quality of Education

267. Regarding measures taken by the Ministry of Basic Education aimed at attaining the sector objective of improving the quality of Education, the capacity of both learners and teachers at the Basic Education Cycle was strengthened, notably through;

A. The launch of human rights-related education

273. Specifically, human rights education programmes have been taught in primary schools since the beginning of 2008/2009 academic year. Towards this end, the introduction of Human rights education in Cameroon was a joint initiative of the Government and National Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations Organisation; it was in response to the request by the International Community, which considered that Human Rights and Freedoms are useful in protecting human dignity and constitutes one of the channels for sustainable and full development. It also stems from the very deep conviction of His Excellency Mr. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon who, in his speech addressed to the nation on 19th May, 2001, declared that *"The State*

that we want at the beginning of the century is one which is at the service of the citizens and capable of effectively guaranteeing their freedoms and their security..... Tomorrow's State, Cameroon is a modern State, better still more democratic and respectful of human rights".

274. To attain this, the Ministry of Basic Education created a Committee whose terms of reference were to formulate a National Programme of on Human Rights at the Basic Education level. This Committee worked tirelessly and jointly with the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms so as to implement the mandate given to it.
275. To this end, the Educational Notebook and the related Textbooks which were designed and made available to teachers for intellectual, oral and civic education of young children are the instruments to ensure the total self fulfillment of their personality and guarantee the respect of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms within the Cameroonian society.

B. Educational Programmes were designed for Information and Communication Technology

276. In 2008, the measures taken by the Ministry of Basic Education within the framework of promoting Information Communication Technology centred on:
- The intensification of actions aimed at the popularization, sensitization and training of the key actors in the educational chain;
 - The policy of equipping the schools and school administrations with computer equipment;
 - The extension of the teaching programme pertaining to Information and Communication Technology to the entire educational system at the Basic Education level.
277. To this end, an august ceremony for the presentation of educational programmes relating to Information and Communication Technology at the Pre-School, Primary and Teacher Training Institutions in Cameroon which was presided over by the Minister responsible for Basic Education on 15th January 2009 established the progress made in this domain according to the projected actions.

C. The reflection on teaching of national languages is being strengthened

278. The promotion of the teaching of national languages at the Basic Education level culminated in the implementation of several activities.
- 279.1 Thus, after participating in two training workshops on national languages and the convergent education in Congo and Belgium in 2006, a policy document on national languages was formulated in

August 2006 and submitted for approval at the Executive level by the Prime Minister and Head of Government in June 2007.

279.2 Furthermore, a guided tour on the development of the kom language was undertaken in the primary schools in the North West Region with the support of the International Linguistics Society.

D. The fight against disparities and the promotion of gender dimension are ongoing

280. In 2008, the fight against disparities among boys and girls and the development of the gender dimension were continued.

From this viewpoint, the measures already taken by the Ministry of Basic Education regarding disparities were reinforced to further narrow the disparity gap and promote gender equity. In concrete terms, the measures are based on:

- The consideration of the Education Sector Strategy orientations which contain gender equity-related concerns.
- The implementation of the programme dubbed “*acceleration of girl child education*”
- The granting of scholarships to best students (girls) who excel in official examinations with the aim of promoting excellence among womenfolk;
- Assistance to families;
- The elimination of fees payable in the public primary schools to ensure free education at the Basic level and also the continuation of donation of minimum kits;
- The system of wholesale promotion, carried out in collaboration with UNICEF in the priority education zones, is meant to reduce repeating and school drop outs through the development of water points and the beautification of the environment.

281. In fact, it must be pointed out that the strong inclination of the population towards certain socio-cultural and traditional values nowadays in some Regions of Cameroon also constitutes a limitation to the self fulfilment of the young child as a general rule including the girl child in particular.

Paragraph 6: OVERVIEW OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN 2008

INDICATORS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	Pre-school enrolment(PSE) GIRLS/BOYS
Total Number of pupils enrolled in primary schools	1 732 874	1468 603	3 202 511	0.84
% of pupils in Francophone System			80	
% of pupils in Anglophone sub-			20	

system				
% of pupils in public schools			77	
% of pupils in private primary schools			22	
% of pupils in rural areas			64	
Completion rate in the primary cycle (Total)	77.57	65.37	71.70	0.84
Completion rate in primary education in the Francophone subsystem	74.86	60.17	67.55	0.80
Completion rate in primary education in the Anglophone sub-system %	88.42	86.15	87.29	0.97
Gross Admission Rate in primary schools (Total)	119	103	112	0.86
Gross Admission at the basic level in the Francophone sub-system %	123	104	113	0.84
Gross Admission Rate at the basic level in the Anglophone sub-system %	106	103	115	0.97
Gross Enrolment Rate (Total %)	112	96	104	0.86
Gross Enrolment Ratio at the basic level in the Francophone sub-system (%)	92,69	78,20	85,49	0.84
Gross Enrolment Rate at the Basic level in the Anglophone sub-system (%)	93,54	91,73	92,64	0,98
Net Enrolment Rate (Total) %	88	77	82	0.87
% of repeating among the pupils at the basic level in the Francophone sub-system %	17,4	16,0	16,8	
% of repeating among the pupils in primary schools in the Anglophone sub-system%	18,5	17,13	18,0	
Rate of survival at the primary level (Total)	12,9	11,5	12,2	
Rate of survival at the basic level in the Francophone sub-system (%)	65	63	64	0.97
Rate of survival of the basic level in the Anglophone sub-system(%)	83	83	83	1,01
Number of primary schools	9225 (public)	3405 (private)	370 (parents)	
% of schools in the rural areas	76			
Average size of public primary schools	268			
Average size of public primary schools in urban areas or semi-urban areas	522			
Average size of public primary schools in rural areas	222			
Number of schools with double streams basically public schools)	398 out of which 85% are in urban areas			

Unpredictable factors in the distribution of teachers in public schools	39%
Number of classrooms at the primary level	6383 out of which 20% are temporary structures

Source: Data from the Ministry of Basic Education

ANALYSIS OF KEY INDICATORS AT THE BASIC EDUCATION LEVEL 2003 - 2007

		<i>PRE-SCHOOL (EQUIPMENT)</i>		<i>PRIMARY</i>	
		2003/2004	2006/2007	2003/2004	2006/2007
Coverage Indicators	Total number of pupils enrolled	Total number enrolled: 175,970. Private 64% of total enrolments. Sub-System (Francophone: 78% Anglophone :22% of enrolled pupils	Total number of enrolled pupils 126,645 majority private 58.4% of total enrolments sub-system (Francophone 3.3% Anglophone 27.7% of enrolled pupils	Total number of enrolled pupils 2,906,732 Public: 76% of enrolment sub-system Francophone 78% Anglophone 22% of enrolment	Total enrolments: 3.120.357 Public: 78% of enrolments Sub-system (Franco: 80.3%, Anglo: 19.7% of enrolments)
	Gross enrolment ratio	16,6% Pre-school enrolment (PSE) (0,97)	17.4% (very low coverage rate IPS (1.04): Actual equity even in the provinces. Wide disparities in favour of the urban areas (7.5% of enrolments)	GER 101.14% PSE National rate of 0.85	Gross Enrolment Rate (GER): 101.81% Pre-school enrolment (PSE): Improved national ratio: 0.90; but problems relating to girls' enrolments in the North West, Eastern and North where the PSE is 0.68.

	Net enrolment rate		Not available	Not available	Net Enrolment Rate ratio (TNS): 78.2% (not taking into account the percentage enrolled at other levels, 22% of children of school going age are not in school)
	Gross access rate			Gross access ratio (GAR): 93.21%	GAR: 88.76% Littoral Province has the lowest rate : 72,32% Discrimination against girls in the provinces already mentioned ; North West, East, North where the IPS relating to the GAR is close to 0.72
Indicators of Internal Rate of Return	Rate of repeating			Total : 25.5% Francophone sub-system: 27.6% Anglophone sub-system 17.3%	Total: 23.7% Sub-system Franco:26.4% (33% in SIL) Anglo Sub-system:19.4% (21.6% in class1)
	Rate of retention (Longitudinal)			76,4% for Francophone sub-system francophone; 84,2% for Anglophone sub-system	79.7% for the francophone sub-system; 86.6% for the anglophone sub-system

				Francophone System: 56,0% Anglophone Sub-system 59,8%	Total:75.28% IPS:0.86 means that 8.6 girls as against 10 boys complete primary education
	Co-efficient of efficiency			Francophone System: 0,61 Anglophone Sub-system: 0,74	Francophone System:0.61; a drop out rate of 1.64 Anglophone Sub-system: 0.72
Indicators of Quality	Proportion of qualified teachers	41%	Total (51,3%) Public (72,5%) Private (34.5%)	National: 72,7%	National: 73% Public: 88% Private+Community:40%
	Ratio pupils/elementary school Teachers	14,1(Anglophone) 22,4 (Francophone) Public (17.2) Private(21.5)	Total(15,7) Sub-System (Franco: 17,5 Anglo: 17,5)	National: 50,4 Public: 57,2 Private 41,8	National: 43 Public: 48 Private: 31
	Ratio Pupils/Classrooms	35.6	Total (32) Public (35) Private (30)	National: 51,4 Regional Disparities (max: EN with 75,4; min: SU with 37,0)	National: 48,4 (Public:54,2; Private:35,2) Regional disparities (max: EN with 72.4; min: SU with 34.3)

Source: Data from the Ministry of Basic Education

Sub-Section 2: Significant measures taken by the Ministry of Secondary Education from 2004 to 2008

282. The 1998 Act which determines the general legal framework on Education in Cameroon, in Articles 6 and 7 respectively, states that “the State ensures that the child shall enjoy the right to education”, “the State guarantees to all equal opportunities, access to education, without any discrimination on account of gender, political, philosophical and religious opinions, social, cultural, linguistic or geographical origin”. The law is modeled on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which promotes the right to education as a fundamental right.
283. Cameroon set a number of priorities relating to the fight against poverty and development challenges. These priorities are programmes categorized into sector strategies which take into consideration political, economic, social and cultural factors, while at the same time evaluating both in the short and medium term, the assistance provided by multilateral, bilateral and national partners; all of these are factors for the realization of previously determined objectives, the economic cost and their diverse impacts. The education sector strategy was put in place in 2006, after a long period of analysis of the educational system covering almost a decade.
284. The action of MINESEC for the 2004 – 2008 period was focused on four main thrusts:
- Broadening educational access, equity and improving educational access both quantitatively and qualitatively at the general and technical education levels;
 - Internal efficiency of the educational system;
 - Management and governance;
 - Education geared towards inclusion

Paragraph 1: Broadening educational access, improving educational access both quantitatively and qualitatively ad correction of disparities.

285. The notable actions taken at this level in terms of projections were:
- The construction of 100 classrooms per annum, particularly in zones that are lagging behind in terms of enrolments;
 - Recruitment of 5,000 new teachers per year;
 - The rehabilitation of 500 classrooms per year at the basic level;

- Study of the current facilities available in terms of quantity and quality, the exigencies of the economic sector leading to restructuring and a strategy of complementarity between the public and private sectors;
 - The restructuring of the technical education cycles and identification of potential sectors.
286. On 31st March, 2008, 615 classrooms were built, 2,578 teachers recruited, 102 classrooms rehabilitated (1st and 2nd cycles) and a system of reference programmes and qualification designed; 27 workshops were built per year; educational services significantly improved in terms of quality and quantity in view of the real achievements and the budgetary outlay specified in the Public Investment Budget (PIB).
287. It must however be noted that the expected impact of these actions is inadequate as a result of certain political uncertainties, the budget guidelines, the inadequacy and inappropriateness of the legal framework, the incompatibilities between practices and indicator requirements.

Paragraph 2: Internal Efficiency of the System

288. On this issue, the MINESEC got down to
- Significantly reduce drop out rates in the secondary and technical education sectors;
 - Improve the quality of educational supervision at the secondary level;
 - Revise educational programmes in the secondary school system;
 - Facilitate accessibility and availability of school textbooks and teaching materials to the pupils and teachers;
 - Improve health standards in school and university environments;
 - Promote access to Information and Communication Technology.
289. On 31st December 2008, new teaching programmes were formulated; the counseling services are functional in the schools, 5,153 teachers and 60 supervisors were trained, the rules relating to the restructuring of the various cycles and sectors are being finalized, 28 secondary schools were equipped with Multimedia Resource Centres (CR) and many specific actions are still being pursued.

Paragraph 3: Management and Governance

284. The steps taken in this field were meant to:

- Improve the management of educational resources;
 - Promote good governance in the educational system.
290. On 31st December 2008, the monitoring and evaluation committee on the implementation of the education sector strategy was operational, the observatories on good governance were operational in the ministries responsible for education; improvement in the information system and the capacity building for the planning of the education sector are ongoing, particularly through the permanent update of the school map, information dissemination and systematic control of resource management.

Paragraph 4: Inclusive Education

291. Since 2004, through the Ministries responsible for education, Cameroon has adopted the UNESCO concerns and those of the IEB (International Environment Bureau) relating to inclusive education by way of:
- Educational access for all;
 - Consideration of the social background in the ZEPs, notably in border areas with countries in conflict or post conflict situations;
 - Promotion of education in the national languages;
 - Introduction of participatory education particularly through avoidance of exclusion;
 - Taking into account the pressing needs and specific conditions of the population to be trained;
 - The building of bridges between formal and non formal education;
 - The integration of formal school and non formal school in the implementation process of education geared towards inclusion;
 - The gradual change in the paradigms in the formulation of educational strategies.

Sub-Section 3: Changing Times in Higher Education

292. In spite of all the growing efforts of Government to guarantee access to all Cameroonians who are desirous of pursuing higher education, in line with modern trends, the Cameroonian University system is confronted with numerous challenges in particular:

- The exponential increase in the number of students (10,000 in 1981, 20,000 in 1986, 42,000 in 1991, about 140,000 in 2006 and more than 300,000 students by 2015)
- The development of mass education with a rather low and very uneven performance to the detriment of scientific and technological disciplines based on principles of free access and free education (contribution of 50,000 FCFA as university fees);
- The quality of education services taking into account the low level of human resources (in particular about 3,000 teachers with less than a thousand of them up to the rank of Lecturer) infrastructural resources (42,000 vacancies for all the State Universities) including financial resources;
- The relevance of the education dispensed in view of the extremely high number of graduates from the faculties and advanced schools without employment or under employed.

293. A lot of innovations were therefore introduced at the Higher Education level and at the same time tangible and systematic efforts were deployed to ensure that students enjoy the right to education in a peaceful environment that respects fundamental rights.

Paragraph 1: The Innovations at the Higher Education Level

294. To effectively address the constraints cited above, the education sector strategy approved and adopted in June 2006 by the Government and all the development partners were divided into 4 strategic thrusts for the Education sector, comprising 4 essential pillars of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (CDMT) 2007 – 2011 for Higher Education, corresponding to the Priority Action Plans of the Cameroonian Government for Higher Education.

- the increase and diversification of education services to address the challenge of massification, taking into account the Governmental option for the maintenance of the principle of free access at the Higher Education level;
- improvement in the quality and relevance of education through reform of education programmes and introduction of innovative educational methods; the priority consisting of making education more professional;
- cooperation, regionalisation and assistance towards development: this implies the establishment of partnerships with socio professional groups and multi-dimensional cooperation (inter university, sub-regional, South-

South and North-South); an emphasis placed on the development of income generating activities;

- improvement in the governance system in the higher education sector, notably through the deployment of management tools and strengthening of control and evaluation systems, reflected in the implementation of the “new university governance” under 4 thrusts (managerial, financial, academic ad social).

B. Increase and diversification in Higher Education Services as a guarantee of the effectiveness of the right to education

295. The increase in higher educational services was in the first place illustrated by the increase in infrastructural facilities and rehabilitation of existing educational units on the various university campuses: construction of amphitheatres of diverse capacities as well as lecture halls and laboratories. As a result of the rise in tempers and students’ demonstrations on some Cameroonian State university campuses (in particular Yaoundé 1, Buea and Douala) in 2005, the major reason of which was the working conditions in the Universities the Government placed much emphasis on the rehabilitation of infrastructural facilities of all the State Universities. This was translated by the allocation of a Special Emergency Grant amounting overall to 2.3 billion FCFA in 2006 alongside the usual investment budget of each of the universities.
296. An important dimension of this increase in the provision of higher education was the enhancement and diversification of professional and technological training. It was intended to absorb an identified deficit: only 2% of all students in the State-owned universities were pursuing courses in the technological disciplines. This led to the creation, opening and the commencement of training activities in 2006 for the technological institutions projected under the 1993 university reforms but which had not materialized due to the harsh economic crisis prevailing at the time, even as new schools were being established. These are mainly:
- The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Buea;
 - The Faculty of Industrial Engineering at the University of Douala;
 - The Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Douala;
 - The Annex of the Advanced Teachers’ Training School at Maroua.
297. A support project of the technological and professional component of higher education was established. It is funded through resources from the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) to the tune of 6 billion FCFA and through the public investment budget of the Ministry of Higher Education amounting to 1 billion FCFA. This project comprises four aspects:

- The restructuring of the school training sector (construction of the Advanced Teachers' Training School (ENS) in Maroua (1.600 million IADM; 400 million PIB), rehabilitation of the ENS Yaoundé (30 million/PIB/) and the ENSET in Douala (25million/PIB/ works execution and study), the rehabilitation of the ENS Annex in Bambili (400 million/PIB/works execution and study).
 - The restructuring of the technological sector (construction of an Industrial Engineering Facility in Douala (540 million), rehabilitation of the ENSAI and IUT in Ngaoundéré (75million/PIB/study);
 - The restructuring of the medical sector (rehabilitation and extension of the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences/University of Yaoundé 1 (1,050 million), construction of a Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Douala (1,283,937,877/MDRI) and the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Buea (1,526,080,000/MDRI).
298. A project for the creation of two (2) virtual universities (including the Central African Virtual University) was finalised and funded with the support of the Indian Cooperation which will take up a greater proportion of the funding.
299. The project for the creation and establishment of a University Free Zone appears as one of the flagship projects for the increase and diversification of technological training in 2006. Its execution should enable Cameroon to effectively respond to the high demand for highly qualified engineers in a wide-range of technologies, driven by the creation of major structural projects in the Cameroonian industrial sector. The sub-regional perspective for the project should also guarantee the training of the critical masse of engineers in the sub-region according to universal norms and standards to stem the phenomenon of brain drain and highly qualified human resources to the North.

B. Improvement in the quality and relevance of education for a better balance between training and employment

300. The response of the Cameroonian Government to the issue of balance between training and employment is as a result of the implementation of the education sector strategy.
- 301.1 A primary approach consisted in creating a professional license, an essential component in the professionalisation of Higher Education. The establishment of a regime of studies and evaluation of the professional license in the State-owned Universities and private higher educational institutions in Cameroon was implemented by Order No.06/0014/MINESUP/DDES of 2nd February 2006, which constitutes a significant innovation.

- 301.2 The latter was immediately put in motion and the work executed to date enabled two International Seminars to be held on the University Free Zone and its operationalisation.
- 301.3 Similarly, the pre-feasibility study was carried out and the related legal provisions for its creation and establishment are being formulated.
- 301.4 The professional license helps to carry out the training in a professional environment and aims at completing the training in a university environment through practical professional experience corresponding to the required and acquired skills. It also ensures the acquisition of the capacity for rationality, attitudes, and behaviours and to develop the sense of responsibility through gradual adaptation to the exigencies of employment.
302. Many other studies were launched in 2006 among which are the project for the implementation of the programme of generalization of ICT use in the higher education sector (20 million/PIB), a study on the standardization and labeling of computer centres in State-owned Universities (10 million/PIB), a study on the project of developing innovative forms (e-learning, distance education),(40 million/PIB). Thus, one would observe:
- The creation and organisation of the Inter University Centre for Library Resources (CIRD) by Order No.06/0070/MINESUP/CAB of 19th June, 2006;
 - The creation and organisation of the Inter University Information and Communication Technology Centre by Order No.06/0071/MINESUP of 19th June, 2006;
 - The finalization of legal texts relating to the establishment of the Research and Professionalization Support Fund (FARP) and the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN);
 - The establishment of institutions for the Education System Support Programme PASE/higher education component (Global Development Learning Network, the Inter University Centre for Information Technology, the Inter University Centre for Library Resources Research and Professionalism Support Fund, the Inter University Centre for Library Resource) was pursued with the support of the World Bank. The same applies to the Support Project for the Management of Profitable Initiatives and Professionalization at the higher education level. (1500 million/AGIR – PPTTE/ENSP).

303. The COMETES project by the French Cooperation, that is the coordination and modernization of technological institutions at the higher education level constitute a real catalyst for the projected change in higher education in Cameroon.
304. Furthermore, regarding the strengthening of education on human rights, the lessons were reinforced at the Masters' level, then at DEA and DESS levels, through education on human rights protection mechanisms. The Masters Programme in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law has been introduced in several public and private universities.
- 305.1. Other relevant answers are envisaged, notably the study on the establishment of the LMD system (70 million/PIB/studies) with effect from 2008. This flagship study led to the definition and establishment of an institutional and regulatory framework for curricula reform with particular emphasis on the choice of an option by the student, the acquisition of skills and professionalization of education in the CEMAC sub-region.
- 305.2 Courses are also run in public freedoms and Human Rights from the first year to the third year in the Legal and Political Science Faculties, not only to conscientise the students but also to enable them have a solid basic knowledge in this discipline.

C. The development of partnership cooperation: a contribution to the fight against poverty

306. The year 2006 was characterized by the normalization of relations between the MINESUP and the development partners. The adoption and validation of the education sector strategy in June 2006 created awareness about the cardinal role of higher education and universities in the poverty alleviation and economic recovery strategy. Their contribution to the training of qualitative human resources and capacity building appeared as a condition for the success of the poverty alleviation and economic recovery strategies.
307. As there is no appropriate funding for qualitative tertiary education or lack of funding for it (under the terms of the education sector strategy, out of every 100 FCFA invested in education, 50% will be channeled to basic education, 25% to secondary education and 15% shared between higher education and professional training up to 2015). The priority was given to the search for various partners, notably from the private sector and socio-professional sources on the one hand and the development of different forms of cooperation with the view to consolidating the contribution of higher education to development on the other by relying on the development support mission for higher education.
308. The major actions to be undertaken are:

- A study of the project towards the creation of interface centres between the universities and socio-professionals (10 million FCFA/PIB);
- The creation of a foundation for the development of higher education;
- The development of income generating activities in the universities in collaboration with socio-professionals;
- The consolidation of the autonomy of universities to assist them to establish cooperation relations and partnership relevant to their development.

D. The new academic and financial governance: a desire for transparent and accountability in the management of universities

309. As financial resources for the universities are on getting leaner and leaner these days, in view of the huge financial needs of higher education, it has become necessary to give full effect to the “new financial and ethical governance:” in the State-owned Universities.

310. Following Presidential Decrees in September and October 2005 relating to the new managerial and financial governance of the State Universities, the MINESUP took the following actions in 2006.

- The reactivation of activities of the anti-corruption and ethical standards unit at the tertiary education level;
- The organisation of many seminars on new rules pertaining to managerial and financial governance in the universities;
- The formulation of terms of reference for studies aimed at developing management tools for control and evaluation systems, in particular a study to be conducted into institutional and organizational audits at the higher education level (10 million CFA/BP), studies for the design and update of blue prints for development and frameworks for medium term expenditure of 6 State-owned universities (150 million CFA/BIP), a study into the establishment of an information system at the tertiary education level (PASE/IDA), a study on Cost control and Standardisation of buildings and infrastructural equipment at the tertiary education level (80 million/BIP) and finally a study of the project for the creation of a specialized institution with the aim of funding education (10 million FCFA/BIP).

Paragraph 2: the guarantee of the right to education for students in a peaceful environment that respects fundamental rights

311. The guarantee of the right to education for students in a peaceful environment is a constant preoccupation of the Cameroonian Government, conscious of the fact that the hope of Cameroon for a better future is dependent on a highly trained youth. Notwithstanding the problem of dwindling financial resources and conscious of the increase in poverty in the university community, the Government

left no stone unturned in providing the students with study conditions and development that are more or less ideal.

A. Rehabilitation and Development of Social Infrastructure

312. Notable achievements were recorded during the last three years by way of improvement in the livelihood of students. There is the need to point out the following among many others:

- The execution of construction works by the Ministry of Higher Education in terms of buildings for the accommodation of students with a capacity for eight hundred (800) rooms at the Ngoa-ékellé (Yaoundé) University Hall. This is quite an important construction work whose satisfactory completion is projected in the medium term;
- Execution of a study for the construction of student accommodation blocks at the University of Yaoundé II – Soa by a Cameroonian economic operator;
- The start of negotiations with a leading financial consortium of South African economic operators in collaboration with a well established Cameroonian firm, with the view to funding and executing on concessional terms the construction of University halls of residences in all the State-owned Universities;
- Rehabilitation works on the Ngoa-ékellé hall of residence;
- Rehabilitation of University restaurant facilities within the various campuses of State-owned universities;
- The continuation of a construction/rehabilitation policy of sporting infrastructure on the University campuses (in particular at the University of Buea which hosted the University Games in 2006).

B. The issue of poverty alleviation within the Universities

313. This issue, which is quite pervasive in the different sectors of activity and among social groups, also applies to students, lecturers and supporting staff. A lot of measures have been taken towards these different sectors of the University community.

314. Concerning the students, apart from the infrastructural facilities mentioned above which are intended to improve the living and working conditions of students, it must be stated that in 2006 -2007:

- Lots of scholarships were granted to several hundreds of students in State-owned universities;
- More than a hundred scholarships for studies abroad were granted to students under cooperation agreements with friendly countries;
- The granting of 1200 internships during vacations in 2006 to students from different state-owned universities under a partnership agreement between

- the tertiary institutions and many public sector institutions and local government authorities;
- The granting of different forms of support to various students' organizations;
- The organisation of many prevention campaigns and free HIV/AIDS testing on the various campuses of Universities in Cameroon;
- The provision of care at the University Medical Centers for all students who are carriers of the HIV/AIDS
- The implementation of programmes for the improvement of conditions of physically-challenged persons in terms of facilities and supervision in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare; this is in accordance with Law No. 83/013 of 21st July, 1983 relating to the protection of physically-challenged persons and the Decree for its enforcement No.90/1576 of 26th November 1990 determining the modalities for the enforcement of this law.

315. Concerning lecturers at the tertiary level, the difficulties confronting them on daily basis regarding their work will be given greater attention. However, the Government took a lot of measures aimed at improving their conditions, the key ones being:

- The continuation of institutional support for the academic mobility programme in the sum of 36,250,000 FCFA under the MINESUP budget alone, to which one must add the credits generated under the independent budgets of the Universities;
- The revitalization of several research laboratories;
- The finalization of the build-up of additional technical support documents on the request for authorization of recruitment of 1000 lecturers (400 ATER – Research and Teaching Assistants – including 600 permanent lecturers in all the State-owned Universities;
- The continuation of the “one lecturer one computer” programme;
- The strengthening of the rationalization procedures for the promotion of lecturers and the fast tracking of finalization procedures of the laws regarding career management of professional lecturers (47 related decrees in 2006);
- The payment of the academic debt to the lecturers in tertiary institutions;
- Signing of a group health insurance agreement with the AXA company on very favourable terms to enable a large number of lecturers in tertiary institutions including students and supporting staff to derive benefits offered by the health insurance with potential advantageous clauses to fight against what some have referred to as “turning lecturers into vagrants”

316. In conclusion, it can be ascertained from the foregoing that the Government of Cameroon has a genuine desire to provide Cameroon with a qualitative educational system. However, the lack of financial and human resources has in many ways undermined the efforts to guarantee to all an education that is in keeping with the standards for the promotion and protection of this right. Progress could possibly be made, as the case may be, if the gender dimension, the problems of physically-challenged persons and the ever increasing poverty related disparities in school are factored into the scheme of things. These are some of the projects for which the Government has unfortunately not been able to mobilize resources.

SECTION IV: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN (ARTICLES 18 – 28)

Sub-section 1: Measures taken to ensure the protection of Women’s Rights and the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women

317. In Cameroon, equal rights for women and men constitute a priority in terms of the development process and strategies. Measures taken to that effect are translated into the establishment of a framework for the protection of women’s rights as well as those of the girl child and the development of an appropriate institutional mechanism.

318. To ensure consistent improvement in the legal framework for the protection of women’s rights, new and of course innovative government bills were formulated and are in the process of being adopted. These are:

- The draft bill on the curtailment of violence perpetrated against women and discrimination based on gender;
- The draft bill of Personal and Family Code;
- The draft bill on the promotion and protection of physically-challenged persons;

Paragraph 1: Institutional Framework

319. The organizational and functional framework for the promotion of women’s rights including those of the girl child comprises: public institutions, civil society organizations and development partners.

A. Public Institutions

320. In Cameroon, there is a Ministry specifically responsible for the promotion of Women’s affairs. Its duty consists of formulation and implementation of measures relating to the respect of women’s rights, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and the promotion of equality in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres.

321. Within the context of the implementation of these tasks, the Ministry of Women's and Family Affairs carries out the following activities:

- The popularization of the rights of women and the girl child to ensure the respect for them in all sectors and shades of national life (socio-legal clinics, sensitization campaigns, formulation and dissemination by radio and television, commemoration of international women days, dissemination of research outcomes on women, popularization of legal instruments and protection of women's rights, organisation of educative talks, etc;
- The organisation of sensitization workshops on discriminatory practices against women and sexist stereotypes
- Implementing measures to ensure that women's rights are made secure through the promotion of civil marriages and the fight against cohabitation which poses a lot of problems for women;
- Advocacy among opinion and religious leaders with the view to undertaking reforms in the area of culture, traditions and mental stereotypes for a better incorporation of the interests of women and the girl child into all actions;
- Improvement in the living conditions of women (support in the creation of micro enterprises, capacity building, literacy in the Women's Promotion and Family Centres and the Centres for Appropriate Technologies, the establishment of small agro-food processing units, the popularization of economic information through the development of a manual for women entrepreneurs and a multimedia centre for publicity in terms of a wide-range of market opportunities, investments and partnerships in the world;
- The fight against female genital mutilation on the basis of a national strategic plan supported by targeted projects;
- The fight against the perpetration of violence against women through health care, psychosocial and legal services.
- The first aspect consists of making a follow-up on the medical condition of the victim and to ensure that the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Social Welfare takes care of the victim and related expenses and costs in case of any incidence of poverty. The second aspect concerns listening sessions and restoration of the confidence of the victim; this is intended to restore his/her lost dignity resulting from rape or any other form of abuse. The legal follow-up is provided in case the victim desires to take legal action. A toll-free number helps victims of violence or any other person wielding information on a case of violence or desiring to break the silence to get in touch with the MINPROFF agencies at any time;
- The fight against HIV/AIDS through a national strategic plan designed and implemented with the support of development partners and civil society in Cameroon characterized by the institution of free distribution of anti retrovirals;

- The organization, support and supervision of associations and networks of associations for the promotion of women's rights for an effective action;
- The institutionalization of gender with the view to ensuring the effective incorporation of the gender perspective in development policies, programmes and projects in line with the strategic national orientations and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- Poverty alleviation as far as women are concerned through the establishment of a support mechanism for poor women and the provision of equipment and agro-pastoral tools for setting up micro projects for women;
- The organisation of exchange visits with sister countries for the transfer of experience, knowledge and technologies;
- Counseling and legal guidance;
- This action is supported by other Sector Ministries whose key officials have been trained in gender issues and/or where Gender Focal Persons such as gender warning and monitoring system have been established.

B. Private Institutions: Civil Society

322. In Cameroon, the Laws on freedom in public life have promoted the creation of a host of associations for the promotion of women's rights. Civil Society is lending its support on the reflections on and formulation of strategy papers with the aim of incorporating specific interests of women and young girls in the development process. This was the case in the design of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the formulation of the Social Development Sector Strategy Document including all other strategic frameworks evolved.
323. The Cameroonian Associations and NGOs promoting women's rights issues operate in areas such as:
- The fight against abuses perpetrated against women;
 - Gender training and research;
 - Support to women entrepreneurs;
 - Popularization of the rights of women and the girl child;

Paragraph 2: Achievements

324. The synergy of actions mentioned above helped to make considerable headway in the creation of a more secure social environment for the promotion of women's rights. It is now time to point out that Cameroonian women are represented in different ways (public life, decision-making, administration, etc.). They occupy the highest positions of responsibility:
- 06 Ministers;
 - 25 Parliamentarians;
 - 10 Mayors
 - 02 Directors General of State-owned Companies;
 - 03 Sub-Prefects;

- 14 Chief Directors of Ministries and other similar bodies
 - 58 Directors and other functions in the Central Public Service;
 - 155 Deputy Directors and other functions in the Central Administration
 - 492 Heads of Service in the Central Administration;
 - Several highly placed women in the Police Service and the Army;
325. Today, in spite of the complexity of the landscape and the differences in the perception of women's rights, the emancipation of women is an irreversible issue. The political will provides an unquestionable momentum for the cause. The population has become wide awake and conscious of certain specific problems relating to the women as well as certain practices and attitudes which impede their self-fulfilment.
326. The impact of the actions taken are also felt through a broader understanding by opinion leaders, the involvement of traditional chiefs and religious leaders who are ever ready, not only to participate in various discussions concerning women but also ready to give to the latter a lot more of freedoms for activities that enable women to discover both their economic and political potentials.
327. Similarly, the ministerial departments also incorporate a great deal of women's concerns or the gender dimension into their programmes and projects. Associations and NGOs work alongside the Government for purposes of relevant social transformation towards the promotion of the well-being of women.

Paragraph 3: Difficulties and constraints

328. Among the most important difficulties, one can mention:
- The persistence of outmoded customs; which explains the phenomenon of early marriages, the selective education of children, the patriarchal organisation of society;
 - The influence of customs on the judicial system;
 - The lack of knowledge on women's rights;
 - The inadequate social appropriation of the gender dimension

Paragraph 4: OUTLOOK

329. The Government of the Republic of Cameroon depends, to a large extent, on civil society organizations and women themselves, their associations and networks for the necessary changes in the promotion of equal rights for men and women.

330. The effectiveness and efficiency of the measures hereinafter depend on it. They are:

- The adoption of the draft bill on the prevention and curbing of women-related violence and gender-based discriminations, a law which reinforces the protection of the woman as a person and her rights within the society;
- The adoption of the bill on the Childhood Protection Code;
- The validation of the strategy of professional training based on equity;
- The strengthening of human resources of the social sector and the integration of the underprivileged groups into the economic environment;
- The continued popularization of the national and international legal instruments relating to human rights;
- The capacity building of actors involved in the prevention, detention and curbing of slavery and trafficking as well as the reintegration of children who are victims to ensure a better handling of this social canker;
- The creation of a reception and supervision centre for women and young girls who fall victim to violence;
- The strengthening and monitoring of measures designed to create access for women and young girls in terms of training, education and their maintenance in the school and university system;
- The intensification of actions and advocacy including sensitization for the elimination of discrimination and violence perpetrated against women and young girls;
- The strengthening of the implementation of the Convention on all Forms of Discrimination Against Women as well as the popularization of this instrument;
- The effective institutionalization of gender and its budgeting on the public sector.

In short, the genuine political will and efforts deployed for the promotion of women and the girl child contributed to the substantial improvement of their social environment to ensure their effective development.

Sub-Section 2: Measures taken to ensure the promotion and protection of Family Rights

331. One of the major thrusts of the social policy of the Head of State is the protection of the family and the promotion of the rights of the latter. In this context, Cameroon has ratified the various international and regional legal instruments relating to the protection of the family, and has an internal legislation comprising specific provisions that guarantee this protection:
- 332.1 Furthermore, Decree No.2004/320 of 8th December, 2004 on the organisation of Government, tasks the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs with “the formulation, the implementation and evaluation of measures relating to the protection of the family”
- 332.2 All this normative framework promotes the execution of activities aimed at ensuring that the family, in its entirety, enjoys better development conditions and self-fulfillment as parallel strategies are formulated and implemented for the protection of the different components of the family unit.
333. Generally, the most important actions taken during the past four years relate to:
- The prevention of any malfunctioning within families as a result of preparations towards marriage and family life, the prevention of HIV/AIDS in the family circles;
 - Assistance to families (listening to them, family mediation, different forms of assistance). Many families receive material and financial assistance;
 - Support towards families (matrimonial education, responsible parenthood through the following modules: family education, sexual education, birth control, community development;
334. In more concrete terms, the following actions were taken in different subject areas:
- Educative talks on aspects of family law (recognition of children, legislation on customary marriage or cohabitation through collective weddings all over the country;;
 - Legal clinics on themes that are of utmost concern to the family (alimony, succession, filiation);

- Formulation and popularization of brochures on the rights of the family (rights and reciprocal responsibilities of spouses, promotion of relevant values for the development of the couple, conflict prevention and management within the household, interest in pre-marital issues, interest in the management of sexuality between the couple);
- Sensitization of girls, women and families on STI/HIV and AIDS- related risks and psychosocial care of persons concerned within the context of the implementation of the sector plan on women and families.

335. Formulation of a family action plan targeted towards the following strategic thrusts:

- Promotion of the optimal functioning of the family as an institution (improve the knowledge of the family, put in place a support system for the family promote responsible sexual habits within the families);
- strengthening the value of the family as an institution serving a national development interest (ensure greater independence of the family, building the capacity of families in terms of environmental management);
- Creating access for families to enjoy basic social services (contribute to the improvement of the health of families, promote improvement in the living conditions of families)

All these actions were taken without any constraints with the support of civil society, development partners and Ministries concerned.

336.1 Major bottlenecks in terms of protection of the family

336.2 Less favourable socio-cultural environment as a result of existing social prejudices, practices and discriminatory customs against women as well as globalization.

336.3 Lack of resources for interventions;

336.4 Deepening poverty among families

337. Achievements and perspectives

1. Reaffirmed political will with the existence of the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, in particular responsible for the implementation of the national family policy;
2. Adoption of a new Personal and Family Code
3. Large scale popularization of the family action plan.

SECTION V: PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE MOTHER AND CHILD (ARTICLES 18 – 28 OF THE CHAPTER)

338. The Ministry of Social Welfare, in keeping with Decree No.2005/160 of 25th May, 2005 relating to its organization, among others, is responsible for:

- The social welfare of children, older persons and physically-challenged persons;
- National cohesion;
- Facilitation of social reintegration and the elimination of exclusion....

It is in this context that the promotion of the rights of vulnerable people falls within its mandate. These include children, older persons, physically-challenged persons and the marginal sections of the population (the Bakas, the Mountainous inhabitants).

V. PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

339. The following measures aimed at protecting the rights of older persons were implemented:

- The process of establishing the National Committee on Ageing (CONAV) has ended with the formulation, validation and forwarding of the Draft Decree relating to the issue to the Prime Minister's Office on 15th October, 2008. The role of this multi-sectoral body will be to strengthen the mechanism for the protection and promotion of older persons through the coordination of actions of various social partners. Creation of synergies in multi sectoral development programmes and policies.

The collection of data on older persons which started on 30th May, 2008 is intended ultimately to provide Cameroon with a national policy for the protection and promotion of older persons, through the provision of:

- A document on the inventory and efficiency record on older persons with the view to facilitating their reconversion and the valuing of their experiences;
- A directory on organizations in charge of management of older persons with the view to rationalizing the partnership between the Government and the said organizations.

- The sensitization of the public on the rights of older persons reached its climax in 2008 with the popularization of the guiding instruments for the protection and promotion of the rights of older persons: the 2002 Madrid International Action Plan on Ageing, the 2002-2003 guiding Framework of the African Union, the United Nations Principles on Aged Persons, the Cameroon Report on the Implementation of the Madrid International Action Plan on Ageing, the first operationalisation of the concept of “3rd Generation Age University” as a virtual space for inter generational exchange on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons on 1st October, 2008, the holding of a Brainstorming Workshop on the establishment of a National Committee on Ageing on 16th September, 2008 which led to the validation of a draft decree that organized it.

VI. PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

340. Concerning Handicapped Persons, the following major actions were taken:

- The improvement of the technical support centre of institutions that are responsible for handicapped persons in order to increase the quality of services provided through:

The holding of two sessions of the Board of Directors of the National Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped (CNRH) of Etoug-Ebe Yaoundé;

The validation of the draft decree on the reorganization of the National Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped at Etoug-Ebe so as to transform it into a Public Administrative Institution, thus making it a centre of excellence in the sub-region.

- Socio-economic integration through:

The continuation of the pilot recruitment drive of deserving handicapped persons into the Public Service;

The monitoring and support for pensioners at the Vocational Training Centre for Handicapped Women “Bobine d’Or” at Ekounou.

The training of 52 handicapped persons in Office procedures and Internet techniques, that is 30 persons at the African Computer Institute (IAI – Cameroon) and 22 at the National Rehabilitation Centre at Etoug-Ebe with the assistance of CIPCRE;

The donation of fittings (tricycles, wheelchairs, white canes, hearing aids) to handicapped persons valued at more than 100,000,000 FCFA.

- Institutional and legal capacity building through:
 - Data collection from organizations operating in the area of handicapped persons throughout the country;

The holding of a validation workshop in July, 2006 on a monograph on accessible vocations/trades for handicapped persons according to the type of deficiency;
 - The ongoing formulation of a practical guide on the education of handicapped children;
 - The ongoing design of an information leaflet on the white cane as a tool for social integration of the visually impaired.
- The right to sports through: participation in the organisation of the first Central African Games for Handicapped persons

VII. PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

341. The promotion of children's rights in 2008 was carried out in a three-pronged approach – institutional, legal and political.

1. At the Institutional level

- The publication of a Statistical Directory on Private Institutions operating in the domain of child care with the following as their tasks: the provision of a social map for interventions and an inventory of 568 private organizations (Private Social Activities, NGOs and Associations) engaged in child care activities throughout the country. These private organizations are divided into 3 groups; with 41 in category A (outstanding), 241 in category B (Average) and 286 in category C (less effective);
- Capacity building of officials in the private organizations engaged in child care (SPEE), identified in the area of children's rights;
- The organisation of a workshop on the training of stakeholders (Magistrates, social workers, prisons staff, senior police detectives, civil society) in the area of juvenile justice;
- The continuation of the implementation of the project for the elimination of the street children phenomenon with the identification of 435 children in the streets of Douala and Yaoundé, out of which 109 have returned to their families, 63 have gone back to school with the support of funds provided under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (IADM);

- The Celebration of the 18th Anniversary of the Day of the African Child and the holding of the 10th Parliamentary Session for children;
- The preparation of a register for the reception, safety and placement of distressed children in public and private institutions; in English and French, to ensure a better protection of the rights of children in distress;
- The training of 35 Associations providing services under the Bi-Multi project in financial management, identification of psychosocial needs and referral procedure for Orphans and Vulnerable Children;
- The support for the organisation of the 2nd Congress on Autism held in April 2008 in Yaoundé and Douala;
- The registration of 30 applicants desiring to adopt children into the list of approved families and family placement for 22 abandoned children;
- The organisation of two training sessions for social actors and community intermediaries in the area of legal assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children (in Yaoundé and Meiganga), in the context of the implementation of the annual working plan of the integrated assistance project for psychosocial care of orphans and vulnerable children;
- Participation in the World Congress on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 25 – 28 November, 2008;

2. On the legal front

- The formulation of a draft Decree on the creation of a Reception and Observation Centre (CAO) in Douala;
- Formulation of a draft Decree on the creation of a Reception for Distressed Children (CAED);
- The participation in the consideration of the decree or the creation of a Pilot Rehabilitation Centre in Douala for the accommodation of children who had fallen foul with the law and are currently detained at the Douala Central Prison;
- Participation in the advocacy with the view to the adoption of a Child Protection Code.

3. On the policy and programmes front

- Continuation of the implementation of the National Support Programme for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) all over the country through health, nutrition, educational, legal and psychosocial care for 3000 OVC in 336 communes
- The implementation of an annual working plan for the first year of implementation of the Special Protection Programme of the Cameroon/UNICEF round of cooperation for the period 2008 – 2012 and the design of the Country Action Plan Paper for the 2008 – 2013 Round.
- Contribution to the revision of the National Policy Framework document of the Integrated Early Childhood development;
- Establishment of a network of 8 Associations for early Childhood development in the Far North out of which three (03) operate specifically for the Integrated Early Childhood Development;
- Formulation of a manual for psychosocial care of children in emerging situations including OVCs;
- Support for the formulation and validation of data collection tools and a methodological document on Children in need of Special Protective Measure (EBMSP);
- Identification of children in Primary 5 and 6 without any birth certificates in the six (06) regions of the Far North;
- Training of 70 stakeholders in psychosocial care of children in emerging situations;
- Psychosocial care for 9000 Chadian refugees;
- The evaluation and capacity building of Private Institutions Providing Child care by making available the aids and legal provisions in respect of the protection, promotion of the rights and safety of children;
- The continuation of the reflection on the establishment of a system of sponsorship for Orphans and other vulnerable children in Cameroon.

VIII. PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF MARGINAL GROUPS

342. In Cameroon, certain categories of the population such as the Pygmies (Baka, Bakola/Bagyeli and Bedzang), the Mbororo and other ethnic groupings referred to by the United Nations as “Indigenous Peoples” or “indigenous and tribal Peoples” on account of their way of life, their socio cultural values based on their ancestral traditions, the use of the terminology “marginal peoples”, as a result of

their departure from the socio cultural identity of the majority of their fellow citizens.

343. At the institutional level, the Ministry of Social Welfare in its care missions of national solidarity and stand against social exclusion is committed to the socio-economic integration of marginal peoples in the development process. In 2008, the following actions were taken;

- The continuation of the advocacy for the promotion of citizenship and participation of marginal peoples in the major civic and political events of the country, with the issuance of birth certificates, official documents and voters' ID cards to these peoples in collaboration with the institutions concerned;
- The continuation of the institutional advocacy for education aimed at solidarity, sensitization of Government authorities on the incorporation of specific needs of the target population into the key sectoral projects;
- The identification of various and sustainable forms of support for the said sectors during the 3rd Social Outreach Day;
- The collaboration of the first official Indigenous Peoples' Day on 9th August, 2008;
- The Inter-departmental Committees Event for the Implementation of Recommendations of the 1st National Solidarity Forum;
- The finalization of the project for the creation of the National Solidarity Fund;
- The research study relating to the draft law on the Promotion of Rights of Marginal Peoples and the Policy Document on National Solidarity;
- The development of partnership platforms with the national solidarity organizations with the view to mobilizing funding for vulnerable sections of the population;
- The constitution of a register on the granting of aid and one-off assistance for the vulnerable sections of the people;
- The participation of MINAS in the preparation of major multi-sectoral projects such as: the Environmental and Social Capacity Building for the Energy Sector (PRECESSE) aimed at reducing the environmental and social effects of major hydroelectric projects on the vulnerable targets of the MINAS; the Development Plan of the Pygmy Peoples under the Forest and Environment Sectoral Programme (PSFE);

343. The design of the TDRS (Terms of Reference) on the Cameroon Action Plan on the 2nd International Decade of Indigenous Peoples;

- The finalization of the PNDP/MINAS partnership on the incorporation of social needs of the marginal peoples;
- The implementation of the Economic and Social Development Assistance Project of the Bakas (PADES – BAKA) in partnership with the Belgian Cooperation (CTB) in the Djoum, Mintom and Oveng Districts of the South Province which ended in April 2008 helped to elicit the following results:

344. **Access to Citizenship**

For a target population of Bakas estimated at about 5,000 persons, the interventions by MINAS in terms of access to official documents are as follows:

- 32 Bakas communities were sensitized on the importance of and procedures for the acquisition of official documents;
- 24 Baka resource persons trained in the use of birth registration declarations in the encampments;
- 467 Baka children received their birth certificates.

345. **Access to basic social services**

- Improvement of body, environmental and food hygiene among Baka peoples;
- The encampments were sensitized on the vaccination of children and pregnant women;
- 176 women received antenatal care;
- 645 pregnant women were vaccinated;
- 2000 children were vaccinated;
- 51 Traditional Birth Attendants were trained and equipped with kits comprising basic necessities;
- 03 health centres (Alati, Mveng, Mellen) were equipped with small equipment for practical use;
- 09 health facilities provided with basic medical needs;
- 30 needy persons received emergency medical attention.

346 **Land Security and Baka-Bantou inter-community dialogue**

- Platform for Baka-Bantou consultation created and operational in the Djoum, Mintom and Oveng localities;
- Involvement of local administrative authorities in the dialogue forums;
- The formulation of a plan for the mobilization of forestry resources.

347. These results were achieved thanks to a budgetary contribution of 497, 765,000 FCFA in line with provision of the Specific Arrangement of 10th December, 1998 signed between Cameroon and the Kingdom of Belgium for the implementation of the PADES – Baka over a period of 36 months.

- The social management of the persons shipwrecked in Londji through psychosocial assistance for survivors. The 21 concerned children were accommodated at the Douala reception and Observation Centre from 2nd August to November 2008 on their way back to Benin;
- The continuation of the finalization process in the creation of a National Solidarity Fund (FSN);
- The preparation of a general report by Cameroon on Social Development;
- The ongoing review of Social Sector Development Strategy (SSDS) with the view to ensuring a better promotion of the rights of vulnerable peoples.

V. OTHER ACTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS AMONG THE POPULATION

In this context, the following actions were taken in 2008.

1. **The release of subventions amounting to 40 million FCFA for Private Social Activities, NGOs and Associations** providing services to the vulnerable sections of the population;

2. Information, Sensitization and Communication.

348. To ensure an enhanced social education on the knowledge and defense of the rights of vulnerable peoples, the following actions were taken:

- The implementation of the Government communication by means of the permanent production of the “radio broadcast dubbed “Social Visions on the CRTV network”
- The popularization in the context of the celebration of the African Children’s Day, of the 2005 Law relating to the fight against child slavery and trafficking with the support of the ILO.

3. Participation in International Events

349. It was generally intended to acquire new expertise and to present progress made by Cameroon in the social protection of vulnerable peoples. Among the list, one can mention the participation of Cameroon in International events such as those relating to:

- The 46th Session of the Social Development Commission of the United Nations in February 2008 in New York;
- The West and Central African Sub-regional Workshop on Social Protection in Dakar in June, 2008 and the Meetings of the Social Development Ministers in Windhoek (Namibia) in October, 2008;
- The training seminar on accident and disaster management from 10th – 24th September in Beijing, China;
- The 3rd World Congress on Sexual Exploitation of Children held from 25th to 28th November, 2008 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

4. Celebration of Vulnerable Peoples’ Day

350. Cameroon joined the rest of the world in commemorating the International days set aside by the United Nations for the promotion of the rights of vulnerable peoples. Furthermore, this contributed to the experimentation with the National Day of Solidarity.

In this context, one can mention the following:

- The 18th Anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons, on 1st October, 2008 marking the theme: “***The Rights of Older Persons***”;

- The commemoration of the 17th Anniversary of the International Day of Handicapped Persons on 3rd December, 2008 under the theme: *“United Nations Convention on Handicapped Persons: Justice and Dignity for each one of us”*;
- The organisation of the 3rd Social Action Day, 24th December, 2008 under the patronage of the First Lady of Cameroon, Mrs. Chantal BIYA during which populations targeted by the Ministry of Social Welfare received financial materials and technical donations for the reinforcement of their socio-economic, educational and professional rights.

5. Cooperation and partnership Actions

351. The consolidation of partnership with the private sector, the NGOs, the Associations both national and international was given much prominence.

At the national level, there is the need to mention:

- The formulation and distribution of aids for brainstorming (TDR – Matrix of Common Actions, joint circular letter projects) to the partners who are the Ministry of Basic Education, Higher Education, Health, Public Service and Administrative Reform;
- The coordination of the Inter-departmental Brainstorming (08 sessions) with the view to the implementation of the recommendations of the First Forum on National Solidarity held on 21 – 24 June, 2005;
- The signing of a Joint Circular Letter by MINESUP – MINAS on 9th July, 2008, relating to the continued improvement of reception facilities and care for handicapped and vulnerable students in State-owned Universities in Cameroon;
- The training of 70 psychosocial support actors for children in critical conditions within the framework of Cameroon-UNICEF cooperation.

6. Combating HIV/AIDS

352. Within the context of the implementation of the social protection of children and more specifically of the child in distress, the action towards the fight against AIDS was focused basically on the strengthening and improvement in the care of orphans and other children rendered vulnerable as a result of HIV/AIDS (OVC).
353. For this reason, the following activities were undertaken:

- The continuation of the implementation of the Bi-Multi project in partnership with UNICEF and the French Cooperation in the Districts of N’Gaoundéré urban area, Douala 2 and Bamenda Central;
- The pursuit of the National Support Programme for OVC (PNS – OVC) throughout the country in partnership with the National AIDS Control Committee (CNLS);
- The health, nutritional, educational, legal and psychosocial care for 52,000 OVC by the Government and all the projects and programmes mentioned above;
- The implementation of the integrated psychosocial support project for OVCs in partnership with UNICEF;
- The organisation of high level advocacy programmes toward community mobilization and the consolidation of inter-sectoral linkages in the provision of care for the OVCs;
- The ongoing appraisal of the MINAS sector plan and the design of a draft action plan 2009 – 2013.

7. Fight Against the phenomenon of streetism

354. The phenomenon of Street Children, it must be restated, is an emerging issue in Cameroon. The social indicators (2003) show that Brother Ives des Cannes of the Sacred Heart Brotherhood observed its emergence in Cameroon for the first time in 1972. The phenomenon gradually grew and actually happened in our country in the 1980’s.

It is estimated that about 4000 children are living in the streets in Cameroon, originating from all regions of the country or even from abroad and the age group highly represented is from 12 to 18 years.

355. As it is basically an urban phenomenon, this number is shared between Yaoundé and Douala.

In 1999, the Report of the Minister of Urban Development made allusion to 450 children in the city of Yaoundé; this figure was updated to 981 in 2007 by the Delegated Offices of the Regional Social Welfare Delegation Office in Mfoundi.

356. The causes of the overflow of children into the streets are varied. The analysis of initial data sampled from 435 children identified in the streets of Yaoundé and Douala between March and April 2008 showed three major reasons given by the children and they are all indicated in Table II attached to this document on Table II:

- Conflicts with parents (46.9%)
- Search for welfare (34.2%)
- Search for adventure (15.3%)

357. Faced with this phenomenon, the Government of Cameroon put in place a preventive mechanism supported by several key actions seeking improvement in the conditions of children in general and those of street children in particular.

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child (CRC);
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
- Decrees No.2000/001 of 04 January, 2000 on the organisation and training in public institutions engaged in childhood management;
- Decree No. 77/495 of 7th December, 1977 determining the conditions for the creation and functioning of the OSP;
- Inter-departmental Order No.404/A/MSP/SG/DSPM/SDSF/SN/BCDA;
- Inter-departmental Order No.060/A/MINDIC/DC/SDD/SD of 26th August, 1993 on the regulation of sales of breast milk substitutes;
- Law No.2005/005 of 27th July, 2005 on the criminal procedure code which includes protection of children and victims of sexual exploitation;
- Law No.200/05 of 29th December, 2005 relating to the fight against trafficking and child slavery;

358. The Ministries of Social Welfare has since the first quarter of 2008 initiated a project which is eligible for funding under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) whose three components are:

(a) The establishment of a social information system which is broken down into two activities;

- The head count of all people in distress to help produce statistics and data that can be used by administrators for the control and prevention of the phenomenon;
- The creation of a qualitative and quantitative data base on the Street Children phenomenon (EDR)

(b) The psychosocial care and socio economic reintegration of Street Children which is summarized into five activities as follows:

- Identification and withdraw of street children from the streets;
 - Counseling of street children who have withdrawn from the streets with emphasis on educative lectures and the return of children to their families;
 - Individual mentoring of certain cases of street children in the rehabilitation institutions and/or for their reintegration into the traditional education system;
 - Training of some street children through income generating micro activities;
 - Community mobilization of all supporting administrative institutions and partners.
- (c) Improvement in the technical and infrastructural capacity in the accommodation of Street Children in specialized centres and/or rehabilitation institutions.

The initial results of the project implementation can thus be broken down as follows:

- 435 Street Children were found, 167 in Yaoundé and 275 in Douala;
- Among the persons found, 119 were reintegrated into their families, 32 of them by social welfare centres in Yaoundé and 87 by the social centres in Douala;
- 63 of the 199 who went back to their families were reintegrated into the traditional education system from SIL into the Sixth Form;
- A study has been conducted into the phenomenon of streetism and it will assist in the creation of a qualitative and quantitative data bank to be used in the social information system on the phenomenon of streetism;
- 48 Civil society partners showed interest in being associated with the project in terms of joint actions;
- 03 rehabilitation centres are in the process of being renovated including the ICE of Bétamba, the Buea Borstal Institute and the Yaoundé Call Centre.

8. Implementation of decisions by Parliament on Children's Issues

359. During their special session the Junior Parliamentarians (JP) put to members of the Government oral questions and made resolutions. Thus, since the first session of the Children's Parliament in 1998 and apart from 2002 when the event was not held, nine resolutions have been made by the Junior Parliamentarians and about forty questions fielded to members of Government. Though answers during plenary sessions of the latter were provided through resolutions on the issues raised by the children, the Ministry of Social Welfare, during the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Children's Parliament in 2009, will evaluate the measures taken by the Government on the implementation of the resolutions.

This evaluation will help in the organisation of the Junior Parliamentarians into a network which will be a sensitization platform of the children pertaining to citizenship, democracy and the respect of human rights.

SECTION VI: THE RIGHT TO A SATISFACTORY STANDARD OF LIVING (ARTICLES 16 TO 18)

This right includes a body of rights such as the right to food, decent housing, and access to water and electricity;

Paragraph 1: Right to Food

360 The right to food involves several factors such as:

- Access to resources and funds to support and maintain one's self;
- Access to land, water and credit;
- The establishment of equitable and effective market principles complemented by safety nets;
- Food security and consumer protection.

361. To attain these goals, the Government of Cameroon established ambitious projects and programmes to ensure optimal and sustainable agricultural production and create satisfactory living conditions in the rural areas. The measures taken were intended to:

- Facilitate access to healthy and high quality plant material;
- Facilitate the acquisition of fertilizers and pesticides at affordable prices;
- Encourage the communities for a renewed interest in rural activities;
- Subsidize the interest rates in the sector;

Sub-section 1: Measures taken by the Government of Cameroon in the field of agricultural and rural development from 2003 to 2008

A. Reform of the Institutional and Legal Framework

- Decree No. 2005/118 of 15th April, 2005 on the creation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural mandated this Ministry to take charge of the rural development aspect with the aim of guiding the farmers for the improvement of living conditions in the rural areas and for the promotion of community development;
- Law No.2003/003 of 21st April 2003 on phyto-sanitary protection;
- Law No.2003/007 of 10th July, 2003 regulating the activities of the fertilizer sub-sector in Cameroon.

B. Development of the Sectors

1. Rice

362. The measures taken under the rice-growing development project in the LOGONE valley led to the structuring of rice-growers' and the institution of a fertilizer working capital amounting to 200 million which enables 160 farmers' group to fertilize 2500 ha of rice farms, increase output from 3.5 tones per hectare to 5 tons, thus leading to increased production. The objective is to obtain 10 000 hectares of fertilized lands in 3 years and a production output of 100 000 tons.

2. Maize

363. With a budget of 2 183 500 000 CFA Francs, the national support programme for the maize sub-sector since its implementation in 2005, has been able to:

- Train 581 commercial multipliers who produced 35 753 tons of seedlings;
- Distribute to the multipliers 40 500 kg of improved foundation and quality seeds;
- Finance 17 007 micro projects with a total value of 2 018 250 000 CFA francs;

3. Plantation

364. The programme of revitalization of the plantain sub-sector during the last four years has been undertaken:

- The training of 600 nursery growers;
- The distribution of 10 020 480 plantains to more than 9 758 planters, which has led to planting covering 8112 ha and a production of about 401 544 tons of plantain.

4. Palm Oil Trees

365. The programme of development of village palm plantations whose objective is to ensure sustainable improvement of the living conditions of farmers through increased stable income from the production of palm oil has since 2004:

- Contributed to the planting of 14 146 ha of cultivated acreages;
- Distributed 1,056 750 of plants to 7,045 producers.

C. The Promotion of qualitative and quantitative agricultural products

1. Cereals Storage Project is undertaken within the markets in the cereals production and consuming zones with the view to constituting security and regulatory stocks to fight against famine and poverty.

365. Cameroon, through this project has been able to:

- Build 31 equipped warehouses in the three Northern Regions with a potential capacity of about 70,000 tons and a value of 3323.78 million CFA Francs
- Rehabilitation of 180.63 kms of roads

2. The project aimed at curbing the major food pests ensures effective and sustainable phytosanitary coverage, particularly in high risk zones prone to invasion by pests. It undertook:

- The training of 1500 village phytosanitary intervention teams and established 500 teams;
- The training of 913 village phytosanitary advisors amounting to 95 855 254 CFA Francs
- The distribution of 26 311 litres of pesticides to farmers' organizations, 682 treatment equipment two of which were installed for large surface area pest

- control and a large consignment of protective gear for personnel estimated at a total value of 397 768 977 CFA francs;
- The control by aerial spraying of an agricultural treatment unit covering an acreage of 65 ha and land spraying covering an area of 150 ha prone to seed eating birds at a cost of 14.997.531 CFA Francs.
 - The granting of a subvention of 5,400,000 CFA Francs to Rice growing Federations for the preparation of protective bird capture;
3. The development project concerning low-lying areas and equipping them with irrigation systems is intended to develop market gardening and off-season agricultural subsistence farming.
366. Since 2003, the Government has been able to:
- Distribute 400 power-driven pumps particularly to young market gardeners;
 - Develop an additional 400 ha;
 - Provide subventions to 550 GICS.

D. Funding Agriculture

367. In addition to the traditional budgetary headings, several projects were undertaken to offer to the poor rural population without access to utilities, an immediate financing source to enable them to develop their economic activities and by so doing, contribute to the sustainable improvement in their living conditions. One can for instance mention:
1. **The Decentralized Rural Credit Scheme** with the aim of promoting the establishment and consolidating village savings and credit schemes operated through self-management (CVECA) in the determination of financial products adapted to situations, its linkages with the traditional banking system for refinancing of the cash stock.
 1. **Project in support of micro-finance development institutions** (MC 2) helped to open 9 MC 2 in 7 regions of Cameroon, to finance about a thousand projects. Thus, the MC 2's were able to share up their credit portfolio impacting in the form of increased volume of savings and improvement in their rate of return.
368. In addition to the Republican roles of the State, every triennium, during the World Food Day commemorated on 16th October, an event dubbed TELE FOOD is organized and the objective is to raise funds to finance micro projects, Cameroon

has already benefitted from funding of 70 small-scale projects, spread all over the country, with a total value of 180,000,000 CFA Francs.

Sub-Section 2: Government Measures aimed at curbing the food crises

369. After the demonstrations at the end of February 2008, the Government took a series of measures whose far reaching effect can be appreciated at two levels notably: i) measures seeking to improve accessibility of food and ii) measures aimed at improving food supplies.

A. Measures for Improving Access to Food

370.1 As the social upheavals were focused mainly on the overly exaggerated prices of food stuffs, the initial administrative measures were intended to bring down retail prices.

370.2 The first of these measures was a Presidential fiat issued on 7th March, 2008 for the suspension of all import duties on basic consumer products including rice, frozen fish, wheaten flour and cooking oil.

370.3 Two Decrees were issued simultaneously by the President of the Republic, to enhance the purchasing power of Government workers.

371.1 In addition to these provisions, the Ministry of Trade (MINCOMMERCE) undertook consultations with the key actors in the sensitive sectors. A series of memoranda of understanding were signed at various levels, mostly on 14th March, 2006.

On this issue, one can mention the following:

- Three memoranda of understanding between the Government of the Republic of Cameroon and operators in the frozen fish, wheaten flour, wheat, and their by-products, rice sectors by which the Government pledges to waive all import duties and other levies like the TEL VAT, withholding tax, community integrating tax, OHADA tax, and veterinary inspection levy while the operators pledge to lower the prices in line with a schedule determined by mutual agreement.
- The Press Statement informed the consumers about key identifiable commercial shops selected for the sale of rice at the usual sales prices and retail prices.
- Order No. 0000011/MINCOMMERCE/CAB of 5th May, 2008 fixing the list of products and products whose prices have been approved.

- Order No.0000005/MINCOMMERCE/CAB of 18th February fixing the maximum sales prices of oil palm.

371.2 These different measures do not however include local foodstuffs which, to a large extent, constitute the basic staple foods whose prices are also still very high. For these products, the Government is focusing its intervention on boosting production.

B. Measures for improving food supplies

372.1 Emerging strategies seeking to boost production in the rural areas and to curb the food crisis were formulated.

372.2 In terms of agriculture, the steps taken consisted in simply reintroducing the strategic objectives adopted under the Rural Sector Development Strategy (double production by 2015), at an early deadline of about 2010). The table below gives an overview of this ambition.

Production Goals (in tons) to curb the food crisis

Type of Crop	Years					Total (2007 - 2010)
	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	
Cocoa	140 000	163 000	215 334	267 668	320 000	157 000
Arabica Coffee	10 000	11 700	13 800	15 900	18 000	6 300
Robusta Coffee	50 000	58 500	75 667	92 834	110 000	51 500
Cotton	300 000	351 000	366 000	381 000	396 000	45 000
Rubber (Village plantations)	5 200	6 084	8 056	10 028	12 000	5 916
Irrigated Rice	50 000	58 500	89 000	119 500	150 000	91 500
Rainfall rice	15 000	17 550	36 700	55 850	75 000	57 450
Maize	966 000	1 130 220	1 488 147	1 846 074	2 204 000	1 073 780
Oil Palm Trees	2 114 000	2 473 380	2 796 920	3 120 460	3 444 000	970 620
Plantain	177 000	207 090	254 727	302 364	350 000	142 910
Bananas	1 350 000	1 579 500	1 953 000	2 326 500	2 700 000	1 120 500
Potatoes	143 000	167 310	190 340	213 370	236 400	69 090
Millet and Sorghum	607 000	710 190	773 460	836 730	900 000	189 810
Ground nut	233 620	273 335	348 890	424 445	500 000	226 665
Beans	198 000	231 660	272 440	313 220	354 000	122 340

373. The implementation of this strategy which will cost about 170 billion CFA Francs per year will be based on the following:

- The supply of farmers with good and high yielding seeds;
- The supply of farmers with fertilizers and pesticides to fertilize the land and protect the plants;
- The guidance of the farmers' groupings and associations to renew their interest in the agricultural profession;
- The generalization of the entry of young farmers all over the country;
- The extension of activities of the Grains Office all across the country in the context of the establishment of the National Food Security Programme.

A special extension of a 7 billion CFA francs was allocated in the 2008 budget to undertake the relevant activities.

374. In addition to these measures, the import quotas of oil palm were increased, greater control of prices of qualified products as well as the agreement to the tune of 500 million CFA francs signed between FAO and the Government for the supply of agricultural inputs to the rural sector.

375. Similarly, one can also point out the renewed interest on the part of donors (the World Bank and the AfDB in particular) towards rural development.

However, in view of the massive nature of the issue and the relevance of measures envisaged, it was decided that a special fund amounting to about 2 billion CFA francs be created.

376. Furthermore, certain projects which are destined to help attain that objective are on the take off stage, notably:

- The Support Programme for the establishment of Young Farmers;
- The Support Programme for the Development of Legumes (Groundnuts, dry beans and black-eyed beans)

377. The other ongoing sector programmes were strengthened. These are roots and tubers, maize, plantain, rice and palm oil. Concept notes on guidelines for new high impact food security programme have also been formulated and submitted to bilateral and multilateral partners notably the World Bank and FIDA. These partners welcome them favourably. Currently, missions for the identification and programme formulation are on the ground. Their take-off is projected for 2009²

378. In the area of animal production, the first options centred on the development of sea and inland fishing. These strategies focus on four main points, that is:

- Modernization of production systems;
- Improvement in the institutional and incentive framework;
- Adaptation of the legal framework;
- Promotion of sustainable management of water resources.

379. In this case, a project dubbed “Aquaculture Development Project” came into existence with the support of the FAO. This project, based on a demand of 30,000 tons and a potential production estimated at 20,000 tons is meant to triple the current production level estimated at 5,000 tons/annum by 2010.

Discussions are ongoing with the view to developing the dairy and beef sectors while at the same time ensuring the revitalization of development projects in the non traditional park and cattle rearing sectors.

380. An agreement for direct assistance from the hatchery operators amounting to 221 million CFA Francs was signed on 10th July, 2008. Similarly, the Government also hopes to provide a credit line estimated at 985 million CFA francs “interest fee and a grace period of 18 months for repayment with only 65% of this amount to be refunded”.

380.1 With the help of this agreement, the actors in the sector indicate that a new opportunity has been offered to increase the weekly production to 800,000 chicks whereas the level had declined up to 50,000 chicks at the height of the crisis in 2006.

A specific expansion is therefore projected in that even before the avian flu hit Cameroon, the country produced only 250,000 chicks.

380.2 The right to food is one of the fundamental rights. The Government of Cameroon committed itself to promote food security through an ambitious development policy of structuring crops centred on high impact generating agricultural farms and sectors.

Paragraph 2: Access to potable water and electricity

381. To ensure that the population gets access to potable water, the Government voted a law and delegated legal provisions which led to the actual realization of certain projects.

a. At the regulatory level

383. The delegated legislations were promulgated and they include:

- Decree No.2001/161/PM of 8th May, 2001 defining the power, organisation and functioning of the National Water Committee;
- Decree No.2001/162/PM of 8th May, 2001 defining the modalities for the appointment of sworn officials for the supervision and control of water quality;
- Decree No.2001/164/PM of 8th May, 2001 specifying the modalities for the protection of surface water and underground water used for industrial or commercial purposes;
- Decree No. 2001/164/PM of 8th May, 2001 specifying the modalities for the protection of surface water and underground water from pollution;
- Decree No. 2001/164/PM of 2nd August, 20012 on the creation of a special appropriation account for financing sustainable development projects in terms of water and sanitation.

384. The implementation of this legal arsenal was translated into reality with the appointment of an accounting officer, the appointment and the swearing of oath of curators' aquarum (March, 2002).

c. Projects Undertaken

385. The following projects were undertaken;

- 250 boreholes in the East Province through financing by AFD;
- 40 gravity intake water facilities in the North West Province with funding provided by the French Development Agency (AFD);
- 20 water sources developed in the East and South-West Provinces' with funding provided by AFD;
- 400 boreholes in the North, Far North, East, Centre, Littoral and West Provinces with the financial support of (IDB);
- 360 boreholes across the entire nation with HIPC funds, 10 water supply systems in the North-West Province with HIPC funds;
- 300 boreholes and wells all over Cameroon with funding from the PIB (Public Investment Budget);

- 100 boreholes in the Far North Province with funding from the Belgian Cooperation (Cooperation Belge)
- Mokola-Mora Trunk Road Project with funding provided by the Islamic Development Bank (ongoing);
- Rehabilitation of 30 SANWATER water supply systems.

Many other projects undertaken by NGOs like “water is life”, CEMAC, Pro-Village, Cave, etc..... need to be mentioned.

B. Access to electricity

386. Concerning the electricity sector and in spite of the privatization of the National Electricity Company (SONEL) and the existence of a legal and regulatory framework that promotes liberalization and competitiveness; the supply of electric energy as well as the quality of public service in general is still beset with serious shortfalls.
387. In the face of these difficulties, the authorities opted for a strategy which will ensure maximum development of the existing potential through appropriate incentive mechanisms, by giving priority to hydroelectricity downstream, natural gas as a back-up system and renewable energy for isolated zones not yet joined to the interconnected network and increase the transparency and efficiency in the management of this sector.
388. Furthermore, a new institutional framework has been established with the creation of the Electricity Sector Regulation Agency (ARSEL) and the Rural Electrification Agency (AER). This new framework creates a platform for competition in the electricity sub-sector.
389. Through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, Cameroon bids for projects that seek to increase energy supply.

Paragraph 3: The right to decent housing

390. The improvement in the living conditions of the people also involves the guarantee of the right to decent housing. The enjoyment of this right particularly brought about heated discussion in Cameroon during the two years as a result of the seeming conflict between the act of maintaining public order and the social rights of citizens. In 2007, this conflict helped to underscore the right to decent housing which is a constant source of concern to the public authorities. One can find out from the management of demolition of houses in Yaoundé and Douala (1) and the promotion of activities of the real estate companies (2).

1. Managing the demolition of houses

391. In 2007, managing the demolition of houses was of much concern both to the public authorities and the population. It generated two fundamental movements which affected the right to housing of people in certain cities of the country, in particular Douala and Yaoundé. As a consequence, it became apparent there were cases of illegal occupation and disorderly construction in the urban zone leading to evictions (demolitions – sanctions) on the one hand and cases of illegal occupation which were subject to legal proceedings for reasons of public interest on the other hand.

The Government had to address the challenges associated with the evacuation exercise, demolitions – Sanctions (A) and take support measures for the benefit of the persons whose property had been expropriated (B).

2. Challenges relating to the evacuation exercises, demolitions-sanctions

392. The exercises which started on 15th November, 2006 in the Etetak suburb in Yaoundé with evictions, demolitions and destruction were in respect of zones dubbed. “Building here is prohibited” (mountain slopes, swampy areas), which are in the private domain of the State. These exercises showed that the Government was right in that following the floods that occurred in certain localities in Yaoundé, in particular Nkolbisson suburb, deaths were recorded. The Government which had long ago started sounding the alarm bells therefore continued with the exercise in other risky neighbourhoods like NTABA and many others. The occupants of the property of MAGZI (Development and Industrial Zones Management Mission) were also targeted by the exercises. Apart from the physical execution of evacuation, demolition and destruction exercise, it is appropriate to examine the issue of conflict based on the prerogatives of the State and the respect of the social rights of citizens.
393. In the first place, it is the prerogative of the State to ensure that citizens act in accordance with the law. It also has the mandate to ensure the respect of law and order, particularly its two components of security and public cleanliness. The relevant authorities (MINDUH, MINDAF, and the Urban Communities) are mandated in the event of violation of these laws to carry out evictions and demolitions without any compensation whatsoever. In fact, on the one hand, the issue is to transform the cities of Yaoundé and Douala into places that are habitable. On the other hand, the question is to clamp down on construction in risky locations in order to avoid any disasters (land sliding) and in the swampy places to avoid flooding and water-borne diseases. The Government recognized that the cities and towns are centres of civilization that promote economic development and social, cultural and scientific progress. Thus, it is imperative to act with the aim of improving living conditions and self fulfilment of which the State is the guarantor. This fundamental obligation aims mainly at creating viable human settlements and in particular the protection of citizens from

dangerous houses. In this light, the Douala Urban Community waged a sensitization campaign and carried out simplification procedures to grant building permits. It also created the Regulation and Anti-Urban Disorder Department and commissioned a study to be carried out for the design of urban planning documents, the establishment of a housing and land Observatory, an Urban Development Master Plan and Land Use Plan.

394. In short, the evictions pose the problem of the extent of the obligations of the State in terms of Human rights in general and specifically in terms of guaranteeing the right to decent housing. This right as presented in Habitat II, “does not consist only in getting a roof over one’s head. It also implies access to all important systems for a healthy life, particularly in an urban environment, especially access to clean water, sanitation systems and garbage collection, to schools, transport and other necessary infrastructure for living in cities”. The United Nations guideline indicates that the obligations of States in this domain therefore consist in ensuring that, citizens actually possess decent housing, that is, a secure and a well constructed housing.
395. Thus, the demolition and eviction exercise was rather not a negation of the right to housing but a protection of the latter. It must be pointed out in any case that the Government is committed to rehousing all the people affected by these measures. The steps taken for the population living at “Briqueterie” is certainly going to be applied to people in other localities according to conditions outlined by all stakeholders.

3. Supporting measures for the expropriated people

396. The expropriation directly related to the right to housing for the reason that the expropriated person, by losing his fundamental right to the property, also by correlation loses his right to housing as the case may be. The expropriation exercise must of necessity be followed up with support measures for the benefit of the affected people.
397. The Yaoundé Urban Community whose mission is mainly to ensure the beautification of the city acted in conformity with the requirements relating to the respect of fundamental rights of the people.
398. On its part, the Douala Urban Community released a sum of 825,140,000 CFA francs as compensation to all evicted persons under the execution of the Douala Infrastructure Project (PID).
399. Furthermore, for the victims identified under the execution of road construction works funded through C2D, the compensation process is being finalised. Moreover, the Douala Urban Community has developed an area for rehousing at a location called Nkolmbon in Douala District III. This zone is home to 600

persons affected by eviction following the construction of the “Heavy duty Douala – Yaoundé Trunk Road” and the Regional Fire Safety School (ERSI).

B. Promotion of activities of real estate companies

400. The real estate companies are important actors in the process of guaranteeing the right to decent housing. Among them are the Cameroon Real Estate Company (SIC) which is a public entity and also private entities whose intervention is consistently encouraged. The initiatives of certain local government authorities like the Douala Urban Community are worth mentioning.
401. The SIC’s mandate is to build public housing for the low income sections of the population. Its activities in 2007 were quite significant: some of these activities were notably:
- Improvement in the lease management regime: arrangements were made for the review of contracts with the ultimate objective of rationalizing the issue of Government Property by combating the phenomenon of subletting and the restoration of the authority of the SIC on housing units through control in the allotment of houses. To attain this objective, the SIC started identification process of all tenants to determine those who were eligible for a new housing contract. Thus, the number of eligible tenants was about 1500 out of a total number of 2300 housing units. These measures have contributed to ensuring consistency and transparency in the allotment of housing units.
 - The finalization of the construction of new housing units in the city of Yaoundé: this concerned the reactivation of investments under the Triennial Programme for Yaoundé and Douala which ended in 1987. Thus, on 1st October, 2007, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing launched the buildings in the Cité de Mfandena. It comprises 160 apartments of 3 to five rooms each and the construction of these units is in keeping with the new strategy of SIC for the implementation of the plan for the benefit of people who are systematically faced with shortage of housing units and prohibitive rental charges.
402. In order to address the shortage of housing units, the Douala Urban Community established the Douala Development Company (SAD) initiated the SAWA BEACH Project. The SAD’s mission is to produce serviced plots in the Collective Development Zones (ZAC). These are prepared in partnership with the original Traditional landowners. For instance, one can cite the examples of a large expanse of urban land system at Douala III, at Bonamatoumbé at Douala IV and one in a preparatory phase at Lendi on land surface areas measuring 168,300 and 360 hectares respectively.
403. In addition to the production of plots, the SAD ensures that housing units are built for people of all social levels. The relevance of the SAWA BEACH project is

- being reviewed by a Commission presided over by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. Its objective is to build 10,000 housing units out of which 40% will be allotted to the most deprived people.
404. On the occasion of the World Habitat Day, the Government expressed its willingness to promote other investments in public housing. It therefore expressed its commitment to support initiatives aimed at improving the provision of housing units in the real estate sector. In furtherance of this, visits were made to construction sites of the Leboudi Estate Agency, corporate citizen of Cameroon engaged in the construction of 500 housing units at the rate of 50 houses per annum.
405. The Government has also resolved to promote a partnership deal to support efforts of private promoters in the construction of social housing. Though from the projects outlined above, it seems that the supply of social housing units is satisfactory, the fact still remains that housing is elitist, that is not within the reach of the ordinary Cameroonian.
406. The control of prices of basic commodities, the guarantee of access to potable water and power and the guarantee of decent housing were the major targets for the promotion of the right to a high standard of living in 2007. Several measures were taken by the Government to ensure the respect of this fundamental right.
407. Though the implementation of the obligations subscribed to by the State under international laws continue to generate heated discussions in the society, it must be underscored on the one hand that the effectiveness of these three dimensions of the right to a high standard of living both as specific social and economic and composite right, borders on public policy and human dignity. The State must therefore reconcile these two imperatives so that one does not undermine the other but an instrument for its promotion.
408. In the area of landed property, the improvement in the conditions of the population is of major concern to the Cameroonian Government. In this area, between 2004 and 2008, the Ministry of Lands and Landed Property Affairs undertook a lot of actions with the aim of facilitating access of the population to decent housing. These actions can be classified into two broad categories:
- At the institutional level,
 - At the level where land is actually provided to the population.

1. Institutional Reforms

409. At this level, one can for instance cite the reform that gave birth to Decree No.2005/481 of 16th December, 2005 modifying and supplementing certain provisions of Decree No.76/165 of 27th April, 1971 defining the conditions for obtaining a land title (A) and Decrees No.2005/178 of 22nd May, 2005 on the organisation of the Ministry of Estates and Landed Property Affairs (B).

1. The Reforms instituted by Decree No.2005/481 of 16th December, 2005 defining the conditions for obtaining a land title.

410. The principal feature of governmental policy is the improvement of the living conditions of the population. For, it is a fact that if there is any development, then the first beneficiaries must be the principal actors who are the people. It is in direct connection with this concern that the reform of 16th December, 2005 was introduced leading to Decree No. 2005/481 which substantially amplifies the procedure for obtaining a land title and for a greater majority of the people to have access to landed property.
411. It is by this mechanism that the procedures were significantly simplified and the timeline shortened, and this boosted the ability of the people to protect their customary and family lands. The registration process which went on for many years as the documents had to go through the Ministry of Lands and the Presidency of the Republic is today limited to the Regional level and it can be completed within six months. This momentum of public authorities is supplemented by Decree No.2005/175 on the organisation of Lands and Landed Property Affairs.
412. This provision promotes the willingness of public authorities to bring the Department of Lands Administration closer to the population. Thus, the Registrars in charge of the issuance of land titles who were hitherto in the departments located in Provincial Capitals will be located in the departmental services.

2. Provision of land to the population

413. Two essential measures that are envisaged are: the allocation of appurtenances and dependencies of private landed property to the population (A) and allotment of lands to other Public Administrative Services and Companies operating in the field of real estate and housing (B).

3. The allocation of appurtenances to the Private landed property to the population

414. One can make a distinction here between:

(a) The pursuit of activities initiated under the estate development

In the 1990s, the State of Cameroon introduced estate development to enable the population to have access to real estate property. These were carried out from 2004 to 2008 by the issuance of orders authorizing the sale of lands through mutual agreement by the Ministry of Lands and Landed Property Affairs allowing for the issuance of land title.

(b) The sale of plots of land in the Private Domain of the State

This allows interested persons to buy plots of land not yet sold from the Private Domain of the State

4. The allocation of lands for Administrative Services and Public Companies working in the housing sector

415. One can for instance cite as examples of beneficiaries of these measures taken by MINDUH (1) and MAETUR (2)

(a) MINDUH (Ministry of Urban Development and Housing)

During the period under review, the Administrative Service in charge of Domains allocated to MINDUH in Yaoundé, Douala, Garoua, and Maroua sites for the construction project of 5,000 housing units funded by the Chinese Cooperation.

(b) MAETUR (Urban Lands Development Mission)

The Ministry of Lands and Landed Property Affairs allocated sites to this institution. For example, one can mention the example of OLEMBE in Yaoundé, Bois des Singes in Douala, Deuk, Kiiki. The procurements relating to these lands were advertised and works are ongoing.

SECTION VIII: RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CULTURAL LIFE, BENEFITTING FROM SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS (ARTICLE 17(2))

416. The information in the preliminary report, paragraphs 433 to 443 are relevant. However, it must be pointed out that Cameroon, a meeting point of civilizations, is a multi ethnic, multilingual and multicultural country which desires to maintain its identity.
417. Actions intended to protect and promote this culture were taken at the national and international levels to ensure better legibility and visibility of cultural rights, copyright and neighbouring rights. These actions are contained in the responses to the final observations made by the Commission in the preliminary report presented by the State of Cameroon. They are perceptible at the legal and institutional levels; they are concrete actions and provide prospects.

Sub-Section 1: Improvement in the legal and institutional framework

418. Within the scope of this dynamic of cultural rights, the Government adopted a number of provisions which constitute the legal bases for these measures. These are:

1. Law 2000/05 of 17th April, 2000 relating to copyright deposits. It aims at guaranteeing and consolidating the protection of cultural and intellectual heritage from usurpation and counterfeiting through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
2. Law 2000/010 of 11th December, 2000 relating to the regulation of archives. It allows for the strengthening of the instruments of protection and the development of cultural knowledge.
3. Decree 2001/950/PM of 1st November, 2000 defining the modalities for the enforcement of law No.2000/11 relating to copyright and neighbouring rights. This legal provision leads to the dissolution of the previous Copyright Society which was replaced by four groupings representing drama, audiovisual technology and photography, including plastic arts). It also promotes the opening, competition and the undefined regulation previously governing the sharing of copyright, which stimulates artistic creation, among others.
4. Decree No.2001/38/pm of 5th December, 2001 on a special appropriation account for supporting the cultural policy. In fact, the recent establishment in May, 2003 of the Commission in charge of identification of cultural projects was intended to increase the provision and the demand of cultural property whose results would have a direct impact on job creation, wealth and poverty alleviation. From this legal framework, a lot of concrete actions were taken.

Sub-section 2: Actions taken

419. These are specific actions taken by the public authorities as well as those taken in collaboration with civil society.

A. Actions taken by public authorities

420. The Ministry in Charge of cultural promotion took the following actions:
1. Organisation of an exhibition on works of art at the National Museum in 2001 on the theme "Art, Architecture and Traditional Habitat" and exchange of views on time-tested techniques on construction, which are balanced and environmentally friendly.
 2. Launch of a general stocktaking of cultural heritage, both material and immaterial, in November, 2001, with the view to making a physical inventory and bringing out every work of art which as a result of its ethnological, archeological, historical and artistic feature constitutes a national heritage which the State is duty bound to pass on to future generations.

3. Implementation of the rural radio network programme all over the country to present through the local languages the rural dimension. This action was taken a few years ago in collaboration with the International Institute such as the International Organization of the Francophony (OIF).
4. Participation of Cameroon in the Francophonie Summit on cultural diversity held in Beirut in October, 2002. Cameroon supported the action initiated by UNESCO for the affirmation of multiculturalism as a guarantee for peace and international security. For this reason, Cameroon ratified the Convention on the protection and promotion of diversity in cultural expressions in August, 2006, convinced that culture, cultural diversity can be a channel for tolerance and peace, a guarantee for understanding and peaceful coexistence between peoples. This justifies the need for a global plan, an agreement on the bridging of the digital divide so as to enable all persons to enjoy a greater freedom of expression, creation and distribution of works, in the language of everyone's choice.
5. Signing various Agreements on cultural cooperation with bilateral partners such as:
 - The Cooperation Agreement with Tunisia in 2001;
 - The Executive Programme with Egypt in 2002 – 2003;
 - Exchange Programme with Tunisia in 2002.

B. Actions taken in collaboration with Civil Society

421. The protection and development of traditional heritage and knowledge cannot be the sole prerogative of public authorities. For this reason, the private sector plays a critical role in the area of cultural activity; this explains the proliferation of cultural associations and NGOs.

To this end, a register of associations and NGOs was opened at the Ministry of Culture, while waiting for the decision on the establishment of an Executive Committee by the Associations.

422. Thus, apart from local festivals (NGOUON, MBOGLIA, BASSA, MBOO, the NGONDO, the LIE LATOTOMDJAP....) and the National Festival of Arts and Culture, the Government continued to encourage cultural activities from different sections of the society in wide-ranging aspects such as:
1. The Yaoundé Caricature and Humour Festival (FESCARHY) in 2001 and 2002;
 2. The Televisions Festival (FESTEL) in 2002;

3. The Chocolate Theatre (Children's Theatre) in 2002;
4. The International Theatre Events of Cameroon (RETIC) in 2002;
5. The Black Cinema Screens in 2001 and 2003.
6. Arts and Culture Festival in December 2008 in Maroua.

Sub-section 3: Prospects

423. These include:

1. The design of a legal framework regulating patronage, sponsorship or cultural patronage to further promote the involvement of economic operators in funding cultural activities;
2. Preparatory activities towards the launch of road construction or maintenance works which call for the creation of "Village Road Committees" whose responsibilities, among others, include the guarantee of site maintenance in respect of cultural heritage and the consideration of local realities and sensibilities.
3. The gradual funding of the National Museum as a showcase of the wealth and cultural heritage, national archives and national library;
4. The multiplicity of public libraries in the local government areas;
5. The completion of the National Cultural Centre and the South Province of Cameroon and its inauguration; the foundation stone laying of the cultural centre in the West, South-West under a vast programme aimed at building a cultural centre in all the provincial capitals as high profile locations for artistic creation, representation of works of authorship and the celebrating of national culture. The issue is to provide to a man of culture, an adequate, environment for total development, dissemination of a natural product, sharing and a life linked to specific cultural identities.

SECTION VIII: THE RIGHT TO BENEFIT FROM SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

424. The Information in the Preliminary Report (paragraph 433 to 443) is relevant. However, it must be pointed out that Cameroon, the meeting point of civilizations, is a multiethnic, multilingual and multicultural country which is bent on preserving its identity.

425. The defense and promotion of cultural diversity in keeping with the respect of human dignity imply commitment to the respect of human rights in general, those of indigenous peoples and minorities in particular. The preamble to the constitution promotes “commitment of Cameroon to” the fundamental rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Charter, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and all related international conventions duly ratified”.
426. From this standpoint, the cultural promotion and protection measures were initiated both at national and international levels in order to ensure better visibility and legibility of cultural rights authorship and neighbourhood rights. Significant achievements and improvements were recorded. These are within the context of responses to the final observations made by the Commission on the Preliminary Report presented by the State of Cameroon.

Concrete actions and prospects are perceptible at the legal and institutional levels.

Sub-Section 1: Cultural Policy in Cameroon

427. The policy of the Government in the field of promotion and protection of culture should be in the form of the design of a relevant legal framework and the stimulation of cultural initiatives from all sections of the society.

A. Improvement in the legal and institutional framework

428. Within the framework of the dynamic of cultural rights, the Government adopted a number of legal provisions which constitute the legal bases for the actions taken. These include:
- Law No. 200/05 of 17th April, 2000 on copyright deposit. Its objective is to guarantee and reinforce the protection of cultural and intellectual heritage from usurpation and counterfeiting which Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can easily make possible;
 - Law No. 2000/010 of 11th December, 2000 regulating archives. It helps to enforce the instruments of protection and development of culture knowledge.
 - Decree No. 2001/050/PM of 1st November, 2001 defining the modalities for the enforcement of Law No. 2000/11 of 19th December, 2000 relating to copyright and neighbouring rights. This provision abrogates the existence of the former Copyright Society, which is replaced by four cooperation groupings each representing a particular artistic field of endeavour (music, literature and drama, audiovisual technology and photographs, plastic arts). It also promotes openness while encouraging creation, among many others;

- Decree No. 2001/38/PM of 5th December, 2009 on the creation of a special appropriation account for supporting cultural policy. In fact, the constitution of the Commission for the selection of cultural projects in May, 2003 encouraged an increase in the production and demand for cultural goods between 2004 and 2008 with the resultant effect of directly impacting employment and wealth creation and poverty alleviation. From this legal framework, concrete actions emerge.

429. Furthermore, Cameroon, member of UNESCO participates actively in the emergence of a national culture whose effects are felt outside our borders through football, musicians and traditional festivals.

B. Actions taken to give effect to the promotion and protection of the Right to Culture

1. Actions taken by public authorities

430. The Ministry responsible for the promotion of culture has since 2001 taken a lot of actions among which are the following:

1. The organisation of an exhibition pertaining to works of art at the National Museum on the theme “Art, Architecture and Traditional Housing” and exchange of ideas on time-tested techniques on construction that are balanced and environmentally friendly;
2. Launch of a general inventory of cultural heritage, both material and non-material in November 2001 with the view to making a physical inventory and bringing out every work of art which on the basis of its ethnological, archeological, historical and artistic feature constitutes a national heritage which the State is duty bound to pass on to future generations;
3. The refurbishment of many palaces belonging to famous dynasties in the four main cultural landscapes in Cameroon from 2004 to 2008;
4. The implementation of establishment of rural radio stations all over the country to present through local languages the rural settings in all their shades. This action was carried out a few years ago in collaboration with international institutions such as the OIF;
5. Participation of Cameroon in the Francophonie Summit on cultural diversity held in Beirut in October, 2002. Cameroon supported the action initiated by UNESCO for the affirmation of multiculturalism as a guarantee for peace and international security and for the justification of the need at the global level for the bridging of the digital divide to enable all persons to enjoy a greater

- amount of freedom of expression, creation and distribution of works of art in the language of everyone's choice;
6. Organisation of seven editions of the National Festival of Arts and Culture (FENAC) which constitutes a showcase of the vibrancy of Cameroonian Culture. The timeframe for this major unifying event is two years and is held in each capital city of our 10 regions.
 7. Organisation of several exhibitions on plastic arts at the National Museum between 2004 and 2008 with painting celebrities from Cameroon and the International Community in attendance;
 8. Signing of various cultural cooperation agreements with bilateral partners including the following:
 - a. Cooperation Agreement with Turkey in 2001;
 - b. Executive Programmes with Tunisia in 2002;
 - c. Exchange Programmes with Tunisia in 2002;
 - d. Exchange Programme with China in 2005 and 2006
 - e. Exchange Programme with Ghana in 2008;
 - f. Exchange Programme with Spain in 2007 and 2008

2. Actions taken in collaboration with civil society

431. The protection and development of traditional heritage and knowledge cannot be the sole preserve of public authorities. For this reason, the private sector plays a critical role in the area of cultural activity with the proliferation of cultural Associations and NGOs. To this end, a register of Associations and NGOs was opened at the Ministry of Culture, while waiting for the decision on the establishment of an Executive Committee by the Associations. In addition to the National Festival of Arts and Culture, other festivals also benefit from various support packages provided by the Government.
432. These are among others:
 - The Nyem Nyem festival in the Adamaoua Region
 - The Mbam Art Cultural Festival in the Central Region;
 - The Ngondo Cultural Festival in the Littoral (Douala) Region;
 - The Mpo'o Cultural Festival in the Littoral Region (Edéa);
 - The Nguon Cultural Festival in the West Region;
 - The Medumba Cultural Festival in the West Region

- The Feokague Cultural Festival in the North Region;
- The Macabo Festival in the Region
- The Batanga Cultural Festival in the South Region
- The Kanuri Cultural Festival in the Far North Region;
- The Mbog Liaa Festival in the Littoral and Central Region
- The LIE LA TATOMDJAP in the West Region.

433. The Government continued to stimulate cultural initiatives from different sections of the society in a wide-range of fields such as:

1. The Caricature and Humour Festival of Yaoundé (FESCARHY) from 2001 to 2008;
2. The Television Festival (FESTEL) between 2002 and 2008;
3. The Chocolate Theatre (Children's Drama) in 2006, 2007 and 2008;
4. les Rencontres Théâtrales Internationales du Cameroun (RETIC) en 2002 ; 2006, 2007 et 2008
5. The Black Screens of Cinema in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.
6. The Ten Editions of Festi Bikuntsi from 1998 to 2008
7. The International Musical Events in Douala in 2007 and 2008
8. The Major Song and Poetry Recital Competitions in 2005, 2006 and 2007
9. The Urban Colours Festival in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

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434. Thanks to Decree No. 2005/117 of 27th May, 2005 on the organisation of the Ministry of Culture, eight specialized institutions operating on the cultural front were created within the Ministry. These are notably:

- The National Library
- The National Archives;
- The National Institute of Arts and Culture;
- National Conference Centre;
- The National Ensemble;
- Public Reading Hall;
- The National Museum
- National Film Library

The procedure for the commissioning of these bodies has already been initiated with the drafting of the different organic regulations and the launch of studies into their establishment.

435. To ensure the promotion of artistic and cultural creation, the State took measures aimed at protecting heritage and moral interests of authors, assistants of literary and artistic works such as those of interpreters, audiovisual communications companies and sound and video recording producers.

436. Law No. 2000/011 of 19th December, 2000 relating to copyright and neighbourhood rights instituted a support fund for cultural policy and the promotion of collective copyright management.
437. Among the relevant initiatives one can mention projects such as:
- The formulation of a legal framework regulating corporate patronage sponsorship or cultural patronage to promote the involvement of economic operators in financing cultural activities;
 - The preparatory activities for the launch of road construction and maintenance which aim at establishing “village road committees” whose roles among others are to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage sites and to take into account local realities and sensibilities;
 - The gradual functioning of the National Museum as a showcase of all the wealth and cultural heritage, national archives and national library;
 - The multiplicity of public libraries in the local government areas;
 - The completion of the cultural centres in the South Province of Cameroon including its inauguration, the foundation stone laying of those in the West, South West in a large-scale programme aimed at building a cultural centre in all the provincial capitals as high profile locations for artistic creation, representation of works of the mind and the celebration of national culture.

The objective here is to provide to the man of culture an appropriate location for total development, the dissemination of the cultural product, sharing and for specific life of cultural identity.

SECTION IX: RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT (ARTICLE 24)

438. Environmental issues have always been at the centre stage of concerns by the international community which has set for itself goals through certain programmes such as the Agenda 21 of 1982 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the 2000 Millennium Development Action Plan in New York, (the Social Development Summit), the 2002 Johannesburg Action Plan during the World Summit for Sustainable Development which gave birth to the environmental segment of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). To internalize these instruments, the Government committed itself to the international deal in terms of the protection of the right to sound environment (Sub-Section I) while continuing with the design of a new legislative, institutional and policy framework (sub-section II).

There is the need to emphasize two concrete regulating Acts which embody these commitments: Article 5 of Law No.96/12 of 5th August, 1996 on the Parent Act relating to environmental management which stipulates that:

“The laws and regulations must guarantee the right of each person to a sound environment and ensure harmonious balance in the ecosystem and in urban and rural areas; and the adoption and implementation of the MDGs which the Ministry of Environment is responsible for as the implementation agency of objective No.7 entitled “Guaranteeing a healthy environment”:

Sub-section 1: Cameroon and the international framework for the protection of the right to a healthy environment

439. It was demonstrated in the ratification of several multilateral agreements on the environment, notably:

- The 1982 Rio Convention or Agenda 21;
- The Treaty relating to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of forest ecosystems ratified by Decree No. 2006/355 of 18th October, 2006;
- The 1990 Convention relating to preparation, combating and cooperation in terms of pollution generated by hydrocarbons (OPRC 90) ratified by Decree No. 2006/424 of 8th December, 2006;
- The 1973 Convention relating to the prevention of pollution by ocean going vessels (MARPOL 73/78) adopted in November 1973 and ratified by Decree No. 2006/423 of 8th December, 2006;
- To internalize these conventions within the national context, the Government formulated and established 6 specific strategies. They are:

1. The strategy for the strengthening of the regulatory framework and environmental governance.

Some actions taken in the context of governance are:

- The application of Decree No. 2005/496 of 31st December, 2005 modifying and supplementing some provisions under Decree No. 2005/117 of 14th April, 2005 on the organisation of MINEP;
- The formulation of standards, guidelines and environmental standards for liquids effluents;
- The design of a study on environmental taxation in Cameroon;
- Law No. 96/12 of 5th August, 1996 on the framework law relating to environmental management and its decrees for implementation;
- Decree No. 2005/0577/PM of 23rd February, 2005 defining the modalities for carrying out environmental impact studies and the Order determining the different categories of environmental impact studies;
- Order No. 0070/MINEP of 22nd April, 2005 determining the different categories of operations whose execution is subject to environmental impact study;

- The manual on environmental measures in forest areas indicating protection measures on biodiversity and atmospheric pollution caused by forest exploitation activities;
- The evaluation manual and audit by environmentalists.

2. The strategy for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

The activities carried out in these domains related to equitable or fair sharing of the economic benefits from the exploitation of genetic resources. On this issue, the main advances made are:

- The funding of projects such as the monitoring project of Genetically Modified Organisms and Invading Exotic Species (GMOs and IES);
- The Operationalisation of the National Programme for Environmental Management (INPEM);
- The implementation of the activities of the Marine, Coastal and Freshwater Ecosystem Management Project (MCFEMP);
- The formulation of fiscal incentive measures for environmental protection;
- The sensitization of the population on the negative effects of uncontrolled bushfires.

3. The strategy for the management of pollution and prevention of disasters and natural catastrophes.

The activities undertaken in this field were in particular related to the control of the negative effects of disasters among the population. On this point, the major headways made were:

- The formulation and establishment of Surveillance and Ecological Warning Systems;
- The launch of a study on the inventory of fixtures at risk sites;
- The participation in the prevention and management of natural and man-made catastrophes;
- The systematic monitoring and control of the circulation of equipment containing or using Ozone Layer Depletion Substances (ODS) within the framework of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol;
- The creation of recovery and recycling centres for Ozone Depletion Substances (ODS);
- Projects for the creation of a National Observatory on Climate Change (NOCC);
- The operationalisation of a National Action Plan for Combating Desertification through the formulation and Implementation of the Operation Green Sahel;

- The elimination of pesticides and chlorofluorocarbons which destroy the ozone layer.

4. The strategy for the promotion of an ecologically sustainable urban environment and industrial development.

The activities undertaken in the context of impact control of the industrial sector on the environment and the health of the population were based mainly on:

- Environmental Inspections;
- Monitoring of environmental disputes;
- Identification of nuisance-generating factories;
- Formulation of standards, guidelines and environmental standards of liquid effluents;
- The formulation of regulatory provisions in accordance with the relevant management of liquid, solid and gaseous effluents;
- The formulation of incentive mechanisms for environmental protection.

5. The strategy for the promotion of International Cooperation on environmental issues and protection of nature;

As the MINEP is the focal point for a score of conventions and international agreements in the field of environment and protection of nature such as:

- The Convention on Combating Desertification;
- The Convention on Biological Diversity;
- The Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change;
- The Kyoto Protocol;
- The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer;
- The Montreal Protocol to the Vienna Convention;
- The Basel Convention on the Control of Cross-border Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Elimination;
- The RAMSAR Convention (relating to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Water Fowl Habitat);
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- The BONN Convention on Migratory Species Belonging to Wild Fauna;
- The Abidjan Convention and its Protocol relating to Cooperation towards the Protection and Development of the Sea and Coastal Zones in West and Central African Region;

- The Carthagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
- The Rotterdam Convention on the Procedure of Prior Consent on certain chemical products and hazardous pesticides dealt with in International trade (PIC);
- The Lake Chad Basin Authority;
- The Niger Basin Commission.

6. Sensitization of the Population on Environmental Restoration

- Integration of the Gender Dimension in environmental management and protection activities;
- Involvement of women and the youth in environmental activities;
- Support to organizations working towards the inclusion of women in environmental activities;
- Urban sanitation;
- Creation of a provincial Committee on hygiene and cleanliness;
- Formulation of manuals on environmental management;
- Development of marketing spaces;
- Actions aimed at urban tree planting;
- Sensitization and education on environmental issues;
- Waste management

Sub-section 2: The design of a new institutional and establishment framework of organizations for concerted environmental management.

447. In this area, the Government evolved a new institutional framework (A) and carried out meaningful actions towards the promotion and protection of the right to a healthy environment (B).

A. Institutional Framework

448. The multi-sectoral feature and the plurality of dimensions relating to environmental issues led to the adoption of Acts by the Public Authorities to regulate each of the areas concerning these issues. In this connection, the former Ministry of Environment and Forestry was divided into two: The Ministry of Wildlife and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment and Nature Conservation: by Decree No. 2004/322 of 8th December, 2004 on the reorganization of Government. Therefore, it is in charge of monitoring the establishment and promotion of natural resources and ensuring the implementation of sustainable development policy monitoring.
449. In view of the fact that demographic growth is around 3% coupled with the increased pressure on natural resources, in particular through the search for fertile lands, pastures, firewood, medicinal plants, potable water, aquatic resources and decent housing, the deprived people depend almost exclusively

on resources from the environment to meet their needs, thus endangering the environmental balance.

450. In its bid to combine the two, that is maintaining the environmental balance while at the same time ensuring that the population enjoys the right to a healthy environment, the Government initiated a certain number of programmes, notably:

- The national environmental management plan;
- The national forestry action plan;
- The environment/forest sector programme;
- The national biodiversity strategy and action plan;
- The national action plan for combating desertification;
- The agricultural policy.

451. Some principles which guided the Government in the formulation of these programmes include:

- Precautionary principle which holds that in case of serious threat or irreversible damage, the lack of scientific proof should not be a pretext to delay taking preventive measures;
- The polluter pays principle;
- The responsibility principle which means that any person who creates conditions likely to be injurious to the health interests of Man or the environment is obliged to ensure or get rid of them in tidy conditions to avoid the said effects;
- The principle of participation which implies among others that:
 - Each citizen must have access to information concerning the environment;
 - Each citizen must ensure environmental safety;
 - Private and public persons must, in all their activities, conform to the same standards;
 - The decisions concerning the environment must be taken after consultation with the sectors concerned with the activities or after public discussions.

B. Actions for the promotion of the right to a healthy environment

452. This concern can be summed up in the creation of a body for concerted environmental management. On this issue, one can mention the following measures among others:

- The creation of an Inter-departmental Committee on Environmental monitoring whose main functions are to assist the Government in its responsibilities for the coordination, execution and policy control on the environment;

- The creation of a permanent committee for monitoring and implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration on conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests.

Apart from these governmental actions, the active role of national and international NGOs in environmental management for the improvement of living conditions of the local population must be pointed out.

C. Allegations of violation of environmental rights of indigenous peoples

453. The protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, in particular the Bakas and Bagyelis in the East and South Cameroon as well as the Mbororos is a national priority. At the prescriptive level, this issue was given much priority by the Cameroonian constituents, in that the Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon of 18th January, 1996 establishes in its preamble the protection of indigenous peoples.

454. As a matter of fact:

- Concerning their non involvement in the management of forests, any time a project infringes on the rights of these peoples, a compensation plan is provided for them. For example, during the laying of the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline, a compensation plan was prepared and implemented, following the deforestation caused by the project.
- Regarding the issue of land, the law on the forest regime of 1994 authorized the payment to neighbouring Pygmy and Bantu people the share of forest royalties and annual fauna resources equivalent to 10% of the amount of royalties.

455. Indeed, the implementation of the land rights of pygmies is not always effective under this law, simply because of their nomadic lifestyle. The Government is studying very effective ways and means of addressing the problems.

Regarding the education problems, it must be pointed out that initiatives in support of education, enrolment and vocational training of the indigenous peoples are provided in Cameroon with the support of UNICEF, UNESCO and Plan International, an NGO.

456. In conclusion, Cameroon is determined to protect the fundamental rights of all peoples under its jurisdiction including indigenous peoples.

In this regard, the Government of Cameroon accepted to host a sub-regional seminar of ACHPR on the rights of peoples and indigenous communities of Central Africa in Yaoundé from 14th to 16th September, 2006. The suggestions that emerged from the said seminar are of high priority to the Government and are gradually being implemented.

PART THREE
MONITORING OF RECOMMENDATIONS

457. At the end of the consideration of the Preliminary Report, the following recommendations were made by the Commission to Cameroon;
- (a) Strengthen its policy of access to free compulsory and universal primary education so as to eliminate gender discrimination;
 - (b) Re-examine prison conditions with the aim of bringing them in line with the principles of the Charter and international standards;
 - (c) Continue to work more closely with NGOs so that the rights stipulated in the African Charter would be a reality for all the citizens;
 - (d) Pursue the promotion of culture, respect for Human rights so as to reduce the tension existing between the Anglophones and Francophones in the society and to promote peaceful coexistence among the different ethnic groups in the country;
 - (e) Ratify as soon as possible, the protocol on the creation of the African Court;
 - (f) Inform the African Commission about progress made in the areas of concern mentioned above in the next periodic report.
458. **Concerning recommendation (a) pertaining to free and compulsory basic education for the elimination of gender disparities.**
459. **Concerning recommendation (b) seeking the improvement of prison conditions to ensure their conformity to principles enshrined in the Charter and to international standards.**
460. The Cameroonian Government, with the support of development partners continued with efforts aimed at improving prison conditions by investing greatly in rehabilitation of penitentiary institutions, modernization of prisons, preparation of social reintegration of detainees, improvement in health coverage and doubling of the food ration. The health of detainees and improvement in conditions of prisons staff are being considered by the Government.
461. **Concerning recommendation (c) requesting for the involvement of NGOs in order to attain Human rights**
462. The NGO's work with the Government particularly on reports, seminars, protocol measures etc. For example, the formulation of a National Plan for the promotion

and protection of Human rights was characterized by beneficial consultations among public authorities and NGOs.

463. Moreover, several NGOs and Associations receive accreditations at their own request for access to the prisons in Cameroon. To this end, and as an example, New Human Rights – NDH Cameroon carries out a Programme of regular visits to provincial prisons in Cameroon to investigate the conditions of women and detained minors. These visits are reported periodically.
464. Furthermore, civil society and specifically the National Human Rights and Freedoms Commission benefited from capacity building as its budget has been catered for in the national budget since November, 2006.
465. **Concerning recommendation (d) seeking peaceful coexistence among ethnic groups and the two linguistic communities.**

Access to public jobs is open to all particularly through competitive administrative examinations. The provincial quotas defined along the lines of equitable geographical and sociological representation among the national elite are implemented by some professional schools. The same applies to high profile political functions. Thus, in Cameroon the Anglophone community has always occupied the position of Speaker of the National Assembly or Prime Minister in alternation.

See above, the developments on equality and non discrimination.

466. **Concerning recommendation (e) relating to the ratification of the Protocol to the Charter on the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights.**

This issue, which is of utmost concern to the Government, is being studied.

Finally, the submission of this report is in response to recommendation (f) which requests the State Party to inform the Commission on achievements made in the implementation of the ACHPR.

General conclusion

467- Cameroon is concerned about reconciling security and public order requirements with the respect of individual and collective freedoms. This country is therefore resolutely committed to a process of promoting and protecting fundamental human rights. In this respect, it is a party to most of the international legal instruments relating to this process, which it is trying hard to implement in terms of civil and political rights as well as economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

468- Within this framework, many measures have been taken, notably:

- the restoration of freedom of expression, opinion and association ;
- the restoration of multiparty system and the abolition of censorship ;
- the protection of ethnic minority groups and the guarantee of safety of persons by the fundamental law ;
- the crackdown on incidents of torture and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment ;
- the creation of a National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms;
- the implementation of a programme for the fight against corruption ;
- the adoption of a National Government programme that places premium on the participation of citizens and Civil Society in the management public affairs ;
- the adoption of a Declaration and a plan of action to fight against poverty ;
- the building of operational capacities for justice ;
- the adoption of a Procedural Code that ensures more protection of human rights.

469- In addition, the efforts on the part of the authorities with support from national and international partners contribute to making conditions of detention more humane.

Already, there is significant progress in terms of all the measures taken, even though there is more to be done, among others things, in:

- the area of poverty reduction, especially access to social services (health, access to potable water, energy, road infrastructure, education etc...) ;
- the area of improving conditions in the prisons (reducing the number of inmates in the prisons, healthcare and food, reduction of preventive detention period, ...) ;
- the area of civil and political rights (modernization of the Cameroonian democratic system, freedom of expression, the electoral system, ...) ;

It must be pointed out that the implementation of the various economic and political programmes recently drawn up will help to achieve better results.

470- Finally, Cameroon is willing to engage in a frank and constructive dialogue with all International Institutions that promote and protect Human Rights, and particularly the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights./-

SECTION VIII: RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN CULTURAL LIFE AND BENEFIT FROM SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS (ARTICLE 17 (2))

416- The information contained in the initial report, paragraphs 433 to 443, is pertinent. However, it must be noted that Cameroon, the crossroads of civilizations, is a multiethnic, multilingual and multicultural country that intends to preserve its identity.

417- Actions have been carried out at national and international levels in terms of cultural protection and promotion, to ensure a better legibility and visibility of cultural rights, copyright or neighbouring rights. These rights are included in the framework of responses to the final observations made by the Commission, on the initial report, presented by the State of Cameroon. They are perceptible in terms of legal and institutional framework, concrete actions and outlook.

Sub-section 1: Improving the legal and institutional framework

418- Within the framework of the dynamics of cultural rights, the Government has adopted a number of laws that constitute the legal foundation of the actions undertaken. They include:

1. Law 2000/05 of 17th April 2000 on copyright registration. This law aims at ensuring and strengthening the protection of the cultural and intellectual heritage against usurpation and imitation which can be facilitated by Information and Communication Technologies (LICT) ;
2. Law 2000/010 dated 11 December 2000 governing the archives. This law provides for strengthening the instruments of protection and increasing the value of cultural knowledge ;
3. Decree 2001/950/PM of 1st November 2001 defining the modalities for application of Law 2000/11 relating to copyright and neighbouring rights. This text puts an end to the existence of the former copyright society, being replaced by four co-operations representing drama, audiovisuals art and photography, visual arts). The decree also deals with the opening, competition and the rule of uncertainty entertained previously in sharing the copyright, by encouraging creativity, among other things.
4. Decree 2001/38/PM dated 05 December 2001 relating to the creation of a special appropriation account to support cultural policy. In fact, the recent constitution of the commission for selection of cultural projects in

May 2003 should increase supply and demand for cultural goods, whose result has direct consequences on job creation, wealth creation and the fight against poverty. Concrete actions emanate from this legal framework.

Sub-section 2 : Actions carried out

419- These include specific actions by the authorities and those carried out in collaboration with civil society.

A- Actions by the authorities

420- The Ministry responsible for the promotion of culture carried out the following actions:

1) Organizing an exhibition of works of art in 2001 at the National Museum, on the theme « Art, Architecture and traditional Habitat » and exchange of ideas on tried and tested techniques for construction, equilibrium and harmony with the environment.

2) Launching, the general inventory of material and immaterial cultural heritage in November 2001, in order to carry out a physical inspection and let people acquaint themselves with any piece of art works which, due to its ethnological, archaeological, historical and artistic nature, constitutes a national heritage that the State has the compelling duty to convey to future generations.

3) Carrying out a programme of implantation of rural radio stations nationwide to increase value in local languages, and the soil element in its entire dimension. This action was carried out a few years ago, in co-operation with International Institutions, following the example of the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF) – International Organization of Francophony.

4) Cameroon's participation in the Francophony Summit on cultural diversity held in Beirut, in October 2002. Cameroon supported the UNESCO action in favour of the affirmation of multiculturalism as a guarantee for peace and international security. For that reason, Cameroon ratified the Convention on protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions in August 2006, with the conviction that culture, cultural diversity can be an actor of tolerance and peace, that it can be a guarantee for understanding and peaceful coexistence among the people. This justifies the need for an accord on bridging the digital divide at the global level, in order to enable everyone to enjoy a greater freedom of expression, creativity and spreading of works, each in the language of his or her choice.

5) Signing with bilateral partners, of various cultural co-operation agreements such as:

- the co-operation agreement with Tunisia in 2001;
- the Executive Programme 2002-2003 with Egypt ;
- the Exchange Programme with Tunisia in 2002.

B- Action in collaboration with civil society

421- Protecting and increasing the value of the heritage and traditional knowledge should not be the privilege of the authorities. For that reason, the private sector plays a major role in financing cultural activity, hence the proliferation of cultural associations and NGOs.

In this respect, a file for associations and NGOs has been created within the Ministry of Culture, while waiting for the decision to put in place a Desk for Associations.

422- Thus, besides the local festivals (NGOUON, MBOG LIA, BASSA MBOO, the NGONDO, the LIE LA TATOMDJAP...) and the national festival of Art and Culture, the Government has been encouraging cultural actions emanating from different components of the national society in domains as varied as:

1. the Yaoundé Caricature and Humor Festival (FESCARHY) in 2001 and 2002 ;
2. the Television Festival (FESTEL) in 2002 ;
3. the chocolate theatre (theatre for children) in 2002 ;
4. the International Theatre Show of Cameroon (RETIC) in 2002 ;
5. the Black Cinema Screens in 2001 and 2003
6. the Festival of Arts and Culture in December 2008 in Maroua.

Sub-section3: Outlook

423- This includes:

1) drawing up a legal framework to govern patronage, sponsorship or cultural sponsorship, to further promote the involvement of economic operators in financing cultural activities ;

2) preparatory activities for launching road construction or maintenance which aim at putting in place « Village Road Committees », with, among other things, roles of ensuring the preservation of sites relating to cultural heritage and taking into account the local realities and sensitivities ;

3) The gradual functioning of the National Museum as showcase of all the cultural wealth and heritage, national archives, and national library;

4) The multiplicity of public libraries in the local communities;

5) The completion of the *Maison de la Culture* (House of Culture) and the South Cameroon province as well as its inauguration; laying down the first stone of that of the West, South-West, under a vast programme of implantation of a house of culture in all the provincial capitals, as high place of artistic creation, performing works of the mind and the celebration of national culture. It is all about providing the Man of culture, with an adequate framework for his development, the spreading of natural product, for sharing and for the life of specific cultural identities.

SECTION VIII: THE RIGHT TO BENEFIT FROM SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

424- Information contained in the initial Report (paragraphs 433 to 443) is pertinent. However, it must be pointed out that Cameroon, the crossroads of civilizations, is a multiethnic, multilingual and multicultural country that intends to preserve its identity.

425- Advocacy and promotion of cultural diversity, compatible with the respect of human dignity, involves commitment to respecting human rights in general and those of the native people and the minority ethnic groups in particular. The preamble of the constitution stipulates Cameroon's attachment « to fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Charter, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and all international conventions relating to fundamental freedoms duly ratified ».

426- In that regard, actions in terms of cultural protection and promotion have been carried out at national and international levels. This is to ensure a better visibility and a better legibility of cultural rights, copyright or neighbouring rights. Significant progress and improvement have been achieved. These achievements are responses to the final observations made by the Commission on the initial report presented by the State of Cameroon

They are perceptible within the legal and institutional framework, for concrete actions and outlook

Sub-section 1: Cameroon's cultural policy

427- Government's policy in terms of promotion and protection of culture is stated in the drafting of a pertinent legal framework, and in encouraging cultural initiatives of all constituents of society.

A: Improving the legal and institutional framework

428- Within the framework of the dynamics of cultural rights, the Government has taken a number of texts that constitute the legal foundation for actions undertaken. These include:

- law 2000/05 dated 17th April 2000 on copyright registration. This law aims at ensuring and strengthening the protection of the cultural and intellectual heritage against usurpation and imitation which can be facilitated by the Latest Information and Communication Technologies (LICT) ;
- law 2000/010 dated 11 December 2000 governing the archives. This law provides for strengthening the instruments of protection and increasing the value of cultural knowledge ;
- decree 2001/950/PM dated 1st November 2001 defining the modalities for application of law 2000/11 dated 19 December 2000 relating to copyright and neighbouring rights. This text puts an end to the existence of the former copyright society, being replaced by four co-operations, each representing a particular artistic domain (music, literature and dramatic arts, audiovisuals arts and photography, visual arts). The decree also deals with the opening, by encouraging creativity, among other things;
- decree 2001/38/PM dated 05 December 2001 relating to the creation of a special appropriation account to support cultural policy. In fact, the constitution of the commission for selection of cultural projects in May 2003 brought about, between 2004 and 2008, the increase in supply and demand for cultural goods, whose result has direct consequences on job creation, wealth creation and the fight against poverty. Concrete actions emanate from this legal framework.

429- In addition, Cameroon, a UNESCO member, participates significantly in the opening up of a national culture whose events have repercussions beyond our borders through its football, its musicians and its traditional festivals.

B: Actions carried out for the promotion and protection of the Right to culture to come into operation

1/- Actions by the authorities

430- The Ministry responsible for cultural promotion has, since 2001, carried out several actions including the following:

- 1) organizing an exhibition of works of art, in 2001 at the National Museum, on the theme « *Art, Architecture and traditional habitat* » and exchange of ideas on tried and tested techniques for construction, equilibrium and harmony with the environment ;
- 2) launching, in November 2001, the general inventory of the material and immaterial cultural heritage, in order to carry out its physical inspection and make a count of it and let people acquaint themselves with all works that, by virtue of their ethnological, archaeological, historical and artistic nature, constitute a national heritage which the State has the compelling duty to convey to future generations ;

- 3) The restoration of many palaces belonging to famous dynasties within the four big cultural areas of Cameroon, between 2004 and 2008.
- 4) Carrying out a programme of implantation of rural radio stations nationwide to increase the value of local languages, in terms of the soil element in its entire dimension. This action was carried out a few years ago, in co-operation with international institutions following the example of OIF (International Organization of Francophony) ;
- 5) Cameroon's participation in the Francophony Summit on cultural diversity held in October 2002 in Beirut. Cameroon supported the UNESCO action in favour of the affirmation of multiculturalism as guarantee for international peace and security as well as the justification of the need for an accord on the bridging of the digital divide at the global level, in order to enable everyone to enjoy a greater freedom of expression, creation and spreading of their works, each in the language of their choice ;
- 6) Organizing, between 1998 and 2008, seven editions of the National Festival of Arts and Culture (FENAC) which the showcase of the vitality of Cameroonian Culture. The frequency of this big unifying event is every two years and it is held in each capital of our ten regions.
- 7) Organizing multiple visual art exhibitions at the National Museum between 2004 and 2008 with big Cameroonian and foreign names in the painting industry.
- 8) Signing with bilateral partners, various cultural co-operation accords such as :
 - a. Co-operation Accord with Turkey en 2001 ;
 - b. Executive Programmes 2002-2003 with Egypt ;
 - c. Exchange Programme with Tunisia in 2002.
 - d. Exchange Programme with China in 2005 and 2006.
 - e. Exchange Programme with Ghana in 2008
 - f. Exchange Programme with Spain in 2007 and 2008

2) Actions undertaken in collaboration with civil society

431- Protecting and increasing the value of the heritage and traditional knowledge should not be the privilege of the authorities. For this reason, the private sector plays a major role in financing cultural activity, hence the proliferation of cultural associations and NGOs. In this regard, a file has been created within the Ministry of Culture for associations and NGOs, while awaiting the decision to put in place a Desk

for Associations. In addition to the national festival of arts and culture, other festivals have benefited from various supports from the Government.

432- They include, among others:

- the festival of the Nyem Nyem, in the Adamaoua region ;
- the cultural festival Mbam Art of the Central region ;
- the cultural festival of Ngondo, in the Coastal region (Douala);
- the cultural festival of Mpo'o in the Coastal region (Edéa) ;
- the cultural festival of Nguon, in the Western region ;
- the cultural festival of the Medumba, in the Western region ;
- the cultural festival of Feokague, in the Northern region ;
- the Macabo festival, in the Western region ;
- the cultural festival of the Batangas, in the Southern region ;
- the Kanuri cultural festival, in the Upper Northern region;
- the Mbog Liaa festival, in the Coastal and Central regions ;
- the LIE LA TATOMDJAP festival in the Western region

433- The Government has been encouraging cultural actions emanating from different constituents of national society in as varied areas as:

- 1) the Yaoundé Festival of Caricature and Humor (FESCARHY) from 2001 to 2008 ;
- 2) The Television Festival (FESTEL) between 2002 and 2008
- 3) The chocolate theatre (theatre for children) in 2006 ; 2007 and 2008
- 4) The International Theatrical Shows of Cameroon (RETIC) in 2002 ; 2006, 2007 and 2008
- 5) The Black Cinema Screens in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.
- 6) The ten editions of Festi Bikutsi from 1998 to 2008
- 7) The International Music Shows of Douala from 2007 to 2008.
- 8) The big song and poetry competitions in 2005, 2006 and 2007.
- 9) The Urban Colours Festival in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

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434- Owing to decree n° 2005/177 dated 27th May 2005 relating to the organization of the Ministry of Culture, eight specialized cultural institutions have been linked to this ministerial department. They include notably:

- the National Library ;
- the National Archives ;
- the National Institute of Arts and Culture ;
- the Congress Hall ;
- The National Ensemble;
- The Public Reading Centre ;
- The National Museum ;
- The National Cinema Library

The procedure for commissioning these structures has already been initiated with the drafting of their various organic texts and the launching of studies for establishing them.

435- In a bid to promote artistic and cultural creation, the State has taken some measures for the protection of heritage and moral interests of authors, auxiliaries of literary and artistic creation such as performing artistes, audiovisual communication and phonogram or videogram producers' enterprises.

436- Law n°-2000/011 dated 19 December 2000 relating to copyright and neighbouring rights has established a fund to support the cultural policy, and proposes pluralism of collective management companies.

437- Among other initiatives that seem pertinent, one can cite projects such as:

- The drafting of a legal framework governing patronage, sponsoring or cultural sponsorship to further promote the involvement of economic operators in financing cultural activities ;
- Preparatory activities for launching the road construction or maintenance that aims at putting in place « *village road committees* », whose roles are, among other things, to ensure the preservation of sites pertaining to the cultural heritage and take into account the local realities and sensitivities;
- The gradual functioning of the National Museum as showcase of the entire cultural wealth and heritage, the national archives, the national library;
- The multiplicity of public libraries within the local communities ;
- The completion of the culture house of the province of South Cameroon as well as its inauguration, laying down the first stone of those in the West, South-West under vast implantation programme of a culture house in all provincial capitals, as high places of artistic creation, for performing works of the mind and for the celebration of national culture .

The objective here is to provide the culture person with an adequate framework for his or her self-fulfillment, for spreading cultural product, for sharing and for the life of specific cultural identities.

SECTION IX: THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT (Article 24)

438- Environmental issues have always taken centre stage of the concerns expressed by the international community and it has consequently set out its objectives through some programmes such as Agenda 21 in 1982 in Rio-Brazil, the Millennium Action Programme for Development in 2000 in New York (Social Development Summit), the Johannesburg Plan of Action in 2002 during the World Summit on sustainable development which gave birth to the environmental section of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). In a bid to internalize these instruments, the Government got down to securing the international deal in terms of protecting the right

to a healthy environment (**sub-section I**) while drafting a new legislative, institutional and programmatic framework (**sub-section II**).

There is the need to underscore two concrete regulatory acts that materialize these commitments, article 5 of law N°96/12 dated 05 August 1996 relating to the outline law on environmental management which stipulates that : « Laws and regulations must guarantee the right of each person to a healthy environment and ensure a harmonious balance within the ecosystems and between urban areas and rural areas; and the adoption and implementation of the MDGs for which the Ministry of Environment is also responsible, as well as the implementation of target n°7 entitled « **Securing a healthy environment**» ;

Sub-section 1: Cameroon secures the international framework for protecting the right to a healthy environment

439- Cameroon expressed its commitment by indicating the ratification of several multilateral accords on environment, namely:

- The Rio Convention of 1982 or Agenda 21 ;
- The Treaty relating to the conservation of the biodiversity and sustainable management of the forest ecosystems ratified by decree N°2006/355 dated 18 October 2006 ;
- The 1990 Convention relating to preparation, the fight and co-operation in terms of pollution with hydrocarbons (OPRC 90) ratified by decree N°2006/424 dated 08 December 2006 ;
- The 1973 Convention relating to prevention of pollution by ships (MARPOL73/78) adopted in November 1973 and ratified by decree N°2006/423 dated 08 December 2006.

In a bid to internalize these conventions in the national context, Government has drawn up and implemented 6 specific strategies. They include:

1/ Strategy in terms of strengthening the regulatory framework and la environmental governance

A few actions carried out in this respect in terms of governance are:

- The application of decree n° 2005/496 dated 31 December 2005 modifying and complementing some provisions of decree N° 2005/117 dated 14 April 2005 relating to organizing the MINEP ;
- Drawing up standards, directives environmental standards for liquid effluents ;
- Drawing up a study on environmental tax in Cameroon ;
- law N° 96/12 dated 05 August 1996 relating to the outline law on environmental management and its decrees of application ;
- decree N° 2005/0577/PM dated 23 February 2005 defining the modalities for carrying out environmental impact study and the order indicating the different categories of environmental impact studies;

- order N° 0070/MINEP dated 22 April 2005 establishing the different categories of operations to be carried out under an environmental impact study;
- the environmental measures guide in forest area, that prescribes measures for protecting the biodiversity and air pollution applicable to forest activities ;
- the evaluation guide and environmental audits.

2/ Strategy for conservation and sustainable management of the biodiversity

Activities carried out in these areas were mainly those linked to the fair and equitable sharing of the economic repercussions resulting from the use of genetic resources. On this item major progress was made in:

- financing projects such as the monitoring project of Genetically Modified Organisms and Exotic Invading Species (OGM and EEE) ;
- Operationalization of the National Programme of Environment Management (PNGE) ;
- Implementation of activities of the project on Management of marine, coastal and fresh/soft water Ecosystems (GEM-CG) ;
- Drawing up incentive tax measures for environmental protection ;
- Raising the population's awareness of the harmful effects of bush fires without control.

3/ Strategy for pollution management and disaster as well as natural risk prevention

Activities carried out in these areas were mainly those linked to the control of harmful effects of disasters on the population. Concerning this point, major progress was recorded in:

- designing and putting in place ecological observatory and warning systems;
- launching of study on stock taking of the situation on the sites at risk ;
- participation in the prevention and management of natural or human-induced disasters;
- continuous monitoring and control of circulation of equipment containing or using Ozone Layer Depletion Substances (SAO) under the implementation of the Montreal Protocol ;
- creating centres for collection and recycling Ozone Layer Depletion Substances (SAO) ;
- projects on creating National Observatory on Climatic Changes (ONCC)
- operationalization of National plan of action on the Fight against Desertification through the drawing up and implementation of operation Green Sahel ;
- eliminating pesticides and halons (CFC) which destroy the ozone layer.

4/ Strategy for promoting ecologically sustainable urban environment and industrial development

Activities carried out in respect of control of impacts of the industrial sector on the environment and the health of the population, were mainly based on:

- environmental inspection;
- monitoring the environmental dispute ;
- identification of classified establishments ;
- drawing up standards, directives and environmental standards for liquid effluents;
- drawing up regulatory texts in line with adequate management of liquid, solid and gaseous effluents;
- drawing up incentive measures for protecting the environment.

5/ Strategy for promoting International Co-operation in terms of the environment and protecting nature

MINEP is the focal point of about twenty international conventions and accords in the area of environment and protecting nature, which include:

- the Convention on the Fight against Desertification ;
- the Convention on Biological Diversity ;
- the United Nations Outline Convention on Climatic Chang ;
- the Kyoto Protocol ;
- the Vienna Convention for Protecting the Ozone Layer ;
- the Montreal protocol to the Vienna Convention;
- the Basel Convention on the control of Cross-border Movements of dangerous wastes RAMSAR and their elimination ;
- the Convention (relating to wetlands of international importance particularly habitats of water birds) ;
- the CITES Convention (International Trade of endangered Wild Fauna and Flora Species) ;
- the BONN Convention on Migratory Species belonging to the Wild Fauna ;
- the Abidjan Convention and its Protocol relating to co-operation in terms of protection and development of the marine environment and its coastal areas in the West and Central Africa region ;
- the Carthage Protocol on Biosafety ;
- the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
- the Rotterdam Convention on the procedure for prior consent for certain dangerous chemical products and pesticides involved in international trade (PIC) ;
- the Lake Chad Basin Commission ;
- the Niger Basin Commission.

6/ Raising the population's awareness of environmental restoration

- mainstreaming gender approach in management and environmental protection activities;
- involving women and the youth in environmental activities ;

- supporting organizations working to mainstream the gender issue in matters of the environment ;
- urban sanitation ;
- creation of a Provincial Commission on Hygiene and Health ;
- drawing up guides for environmental management ;
- development of trade centres ;
- urban tree planting Project ;
- Raising awareness and education campaign on the environment ;
- Waste management.

Sub-section 2: Drawing up a new institutional framework and putting in place structures for concerted management of the environment

447- In this part, the Government has acquired a new institutional framework (A) and has carried out significant actions as part of the promotion and protection of the right to a healthy environment (B)

A/ Institutional framework

448- The multi-sector nature and the plurality of the domains concerning environmental issues have guided the Authorities that adopted acts to govern each of the domains concerned with these issues. In this connection, the former ministry of environment and forestry was split into two: the Ministry of Fauna and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature, by decree N°2004/322 dated 08 December 2004 on reorganizing the Government. For this reason, it is taking care of monitoring the establishment and promotion of the natural resources and implements the monitoring of sustainable development policies.

449- In view of its population growth which is in the region of 3% and which brings in its wake increased pressure on natural resources, especially through the quest for fertile soils, pasture, firewood, medicinal plants, potable water, aquatic resources and decent accommodation, the deprived population depends almost exclusively on resources from the environment to satisfy their needs. This, unfortunately, jeopardizes the environmental equilibrium.

450- In trying to combine the two, that is, ensuring that the environmental equilibrium is maintained, while making sure the population enjoys the right to a healthy environment, the Government initiated a number of programmes that include especially:

- the national plan for environmental management ;
- the national forestry action plan ;
- the forest environment sector programme ;
- the national strategy of biodiversity and its plan of action;
- the plan of action for the fight against desertification ;
- agricultural policy.

451- A few principles guided the Government at the time of drawing up these programmes namely:

- the principle of precaution which states that when there is a serious threat or irreversible damage , the absence of scientific evidence should not be a pretext for delaying preventive measures to be taken ;
- the principle of the polluter pays ;
- the principle of responsibility which means that any person who creates conditions that are harmful to the health of Man and the environment shall be enjoined to ensure or cause their elimination under conditions that would avoid the said effects ;
- the principle of participation which implies, among other things, that :
 - each citizen must have access to information concerning the environment ;
 - each citizen must ensure safety of the environment ;
 - private and public person must satisfy the same requirements in all their activities;
 - decisions concerning the environment must be taken after consultation with the sectors of activities concerned or after public debate.

B/ Actions in terms of promotion of the right to a healthy environment

452- This concern can be explained by the creation of the structure for concerted management of the environment. Concerning this issue, the following can be cited among other things:

- The creation of the Inter-departmental Committee for monitoring the environment whose main mission includes, assisting the Government in its mission of drawing up, co-coordinating, executing and monitoring environmental policies;
- The creation of the permanent committee for monitoring the implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration on conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests.

Alongside this deployment by Government, it must pointed out that, national and international NGOs play a very active role in environmental management to improve conditions of life for the local population.

C/ Allegations of violation of environmental rights of native people

453-The protection of indigenous people's rights and more particularly the Bakas and the Bagyelis in the East and South of Cameroon, as well as the Mbororos, is a national priority. This issue, at the normative level, was given special attention by the

Cameroonian constituent, since the Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon of 18 January 1996 stipulates in its preamble, the protection of the indigenous population.

454-The facts are that:

- Concerning their non involvement in the management of the forests, each time that a project violates the rights of this population, compensation plan was provided for. So, for example, when they made the layout for the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline, a compensation plan was agreed and implemented, following the deforestation caused by this structure.
- With regard to the land issue, the law on forests régime of 1994 authorizes the retrocession to the Pygmy and Bantu population, of a share of the annual forest and faunal royalties equivalent to 10% of the amount of these royalties.

455- If the facts indicate that the implementation of the land rights of the Pygmies is still not effective under this law, it is simply because of their nomadic life. The Government is studying the most effective ways and mechanisms to resolve these problems.

Concerning the problems of education, it must be pointed out that initiatives are taken to support education, school attendance and vocational training for the native population in Cameroon, with support from UNICEF, UNESCO and Plan International NGO.

456- In conclusion, Cameroon is determined to protect the fundamental rights of the entire population under its jurisdiction, including the native people.

For this reason, the Government of Cameroon accepted to host, the sub-regional ACHPR Seminar on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Communities in Central Africa, held from 14 to 16 September 2006 in Yaoundé. Suggestions resulting from the said Seminar have been given the greatest attention of the Government, and are gradually being implemented.

**THIRD PART
FOLLOW-UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS**

457- After examining the first Report, the following recommendations were made by the Commission to Cameroon:

- a) Strengthen its policy of access to free compulsory universal basic education and, to eliminate gender discrimination ;
- b) review conditions in the prisons to make them conform to the principles of the Charter and international standards;
- c) continue to work in close collaboration with NGOs so that the rights provided in the African Charter may become a reality for the citizenry;
- d) continue to promote the culture of respect for Human Rights, in order to reduce the tension existing between Anglophones and Francophones within the society and promote peaceful coexistence of the various ethnic groups in the country ;
- e) ratify as soon as possible, the protocol on the creation of the African Court ;
- f) inform the African Commission, in its subsequent periodic report, about progress made in the areas of concern cited above;

458- With regard to recommendation a) concerning the free compulsory universal basic education to eliminate the gender disparities

459- With regard to recommendation b) aiming at improving conditions in the prisons to make them conform to the principles of the Charter and international standards

460- The Cameroonian Government, with support from development partners, has continued to improve conditions in the prisons and has made many investments in the rehabilitation of prison facilities, modernization of prisons, preparation for social integration of prison inmates, improvement of health cover, and the doubling of food ration. The health of prison inmates and the improvement of conditions for prison personnel are not outdone.

461- With regard to recommendation c) to involve NGOs in the implementation of Human Rights

462- The NGOs are working with the Government, notably, in terms of reports, seminars, action of protection etc. For example, the drawing up of the National Plan for

the promotion and protection of Human Rights was marked by the beneficial consultations between the Authorities and NGOs.

463- In addition, several NGOs and associations are given their accreditations upon request, to have access to prisons in Cameroon. On this account for example, Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme (New Human Rights) NDH-Cameroon is leading a programme of regular visits to the provincial prisons in Cameroon to investigate the situation of detained women and minors. Periodic reports are made on these visits.

464- Furthermore, civil society and specifically the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms has benefited from capacity building with the inclusion of its budget in the finance law since November 2006.

465- With regard to recommendation d) relating to the peaceful coexistence between ethnic groups and the two language communities

Access to public employment is open to all, especially through competitive administrative exams. The provincial quotas, established to reflect equitable geographical and sociological representation within the national elite, are implemented by some vocational school. The same applies to positions of Senior Officials in the Civil Service. Consequently, in Cameroon the Anglophone Community has to always occupy, in rotation, the position of Speaker of the National Assembly or that of Prime Minister.

See above, concerning development on equality and non discrimination.

466- With regard to recommendation e) relating to the ratification of the Protocol to the Charter on African Court of Human and People's Rights.

This issue which is of concern to the Government is being studied.

Finally, the submission of this report is a response to recommendation f) which requests that the State as party should inform the Commission about progress made in the application of the ACHPR.

General conclusion

467- Cameroon is concerned about reconciling security and public order requirements with the respect of individual and collective freedoms. This country is therefore resolutely committed to a process of promoting and protecting fundamental human rights. In this respect, it is a party to most of the international legal instruments relating to this process, which it is trying hard to implement in terms of civil and political rights as well as economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

468- Within this framework, many measures have been taken, notably:

- the restoration of freedom of expression, opinion and association ;
- the restoration of multiparty system and the abolition of censorship ;
- the protection of ethnic minority groups and the guarantee of safety of persons by the fundamental law ;
- the crackdown on incidents of torture and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment ;
- the creation of a National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms;
- the implementation of a programme for the fight against corruption ;
- the adoption of a National Government programme that places a premium on the participation of citizens and Civil Society in public affairs management;
- the adoption of a Declaration and a plan of action to fight against poverty ;
- the building of operational capacities of the law ;
- the adoption of a Procedural Code that ensures more protection of human rights.

469- In addition, the efforts on the part of the authorities with support from national and international partners contribute to making conditions of detention more human.

Already, there is significant progress in terms of all the measures taken, even though there is more to be done, among others things, in:

- the area of poverty reduction, especially access to social services (health, access to potable water, energy, road infrastructure, education etc...) ;
- the area of improving conditions in the prisons (reducing the number of inmates in the prisons, healthcare and food, reduction of preventive detention period, ...) ;
- the area of civil and political rights (modernization of the Cameroonian democratic system, freedom of expression, the electoral system, ...) ;

It must be point out that the implementation of the various economic and political programmes recently drawn up will help to achieve better results.

470- Finally, Cameroon is willing to engage in a frank and constructive dialogue with all International Institutions that promote and protect Human Rights, and particularly the African Commission on Human and People's Rights./-