

**53rd SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION
ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS OF THE AFRICAN
UNION**

3rd PERIODIC REPORT OF CAMEROON

**WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES'
RIGHTS**

Banjul, 09 to 24 April, 2013

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A/C	Warrant Officer Class 1
ACNPD	National Civic Agency for Participation in Development
ADJT	Warrant Officer
ALMA	African Leader's against Malaria Alliance
VPA FLEGT	Voluntary Partnership Agreement/ Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
Art.	Article
ASNPCPD	National Civic Service Agency for Participatory Development
ATER	Teaching and Research Assistant
PIB	Public Investment Budget
BIR	Rapid Reaction Battalion
CA	Appeals' Court
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
CAED	Reception Centre for Distressed Children
CAMB	Bertoua Reception Centre for Minors
CAO	Reception and Observation Centre
CARMMA	Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality in Africa
CCPAC	Committee of Central African Police Chiefs
CDBF	Budget and Finance Disciplinary Council
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
CNDHL	National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms
CNPS	National Provident Fund
CNRPH-CPEL	Cardinal Paul Emile LEGER National Centre for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons
CNUDHD	United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa
CONAC	National Anti-Corruption Commission
CONAC	National Anti-Corruption Commission
CONAVI	National Committee on Ageing
CONRHA	National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Socio-economic Reintegration of Disabled Persons
COPAX	Central African Peace and Security Council
CP	Criminal Code
CPP	Rules of Procedure Code
CPPF	Women and Family Promotion Centre
CRACERH	Centre for Research and Application of Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproduction
CRPH	Maroua Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Persons
CRPH	Regional Pharmacovigilance Centres
SC	Supreme Court

CS	Supreme Court
CTD	Decentralised Territorial Authorities
DGSN	Criminal Investigations Department
DGSN	Criminal Investigations Department
GESP	Growth and Employment Strategy Paper
GESP	Growth and Employment Strategy Paper
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
EDR	Street Child
ELECAM	Elections Cameroon
ENAM	School of Administration and Magistracy
ENAP	National Prisons Academy
ENS	National Advanced School
ERSUMA	Regional Advanced School of Magistracy
ESIR	Special Rapid Deployment Squads
FCB	Chantal BIYA Foundation
FCFA	Franc of the African Financial Community
FENAC	National Festival of Arts and Culture
FESCARHY	Yaoundé Festival of Caricature and Humour
FMSB	Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
FNE	National Employment Fund
G/M	Chief Gendarme
GEN	Gendarme
GPX	Police Officer
IADM	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
ICE	Cameroon Children's Institute
ICE	Cameroon Children's Institute
IRIC	International Relations Institute of Cameroon
JCP	Sanitation Awareness Day
Jgt	Judgment
JIPH	International Day for Persons with Disabilities
MDL	Sergeant
MILDA	Long-lasting treated mosquito nets
MINAS	Ministry of Social Affairs
MINATD	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation
MINEDUB	Ministry of Basic Education
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MINFOPRA	Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms
MINJUSTICE	Ministry of Justice
MINPROFF	Ministry of Women and Family Affairs
MINREX	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MINTP	Ministry of Public Works
MINTSS	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
MIPROMALO	Mission for the Promotion of Local Materials

MP	Attorney General's Department
OEV	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
ONEL	National Elections Observatory
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
PACDET	Programme for the Improvement of Detention Conditions and Respect for Human Rights
PADAV	Support Project for Developing Village Poultry Farming
PADFA	Support Project for Beekeeping Industry
PAJER-U	Support Programme for Rural and Urban Youth
PARETFOP	Support Project for Technical Education Reform and Vocational Training
PDFP	Development Programme for the Pork Industry
PDPP	Development Plan for the Pygmy Populations
PIAASI	Integrated Assistance Programme for Informal Sector Stakeholders
PIFMAS	Youth Socio-Economic Integration Project for Micro-Enterprises Engaged in the Production of Sports Equipment
PNDP	National Programme for Participatory Development
PNE	National Employment Policy
PNG	National Governance Programme
PRECESSE	Capacity Building Project for Environmental and Social Management in the Energy Sector
PROPELCA	Operational Research Project for Language Teaching in Cameroon
PSFE	Forest-Environment Sector Programme
PSG	Simple Management Plan
PVVIH	People Living With HIV
SAV	African Immunisation Awareness Week
SDDP	Small Holder Dairy Development Project
SGBC	Société Générale des Banques
SOCAM	Cameroon Civil Society for Musical Art
SYNEDEBOC	National Union of Drinking Bar Operators of Cameroon
TGI	District Court
TM	Military Tribunal
TPI	Court of First Instance
TPI	Intermittent Preventive Treatment
UFA.	Forest Management Units

I N T R O D U C T I O N

1. As part of the process of consolidating the constructive dialogue embarked upon with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the Government of Cameroon presented its third periodic report covering the period 2008-2011. It must be recalled that Cameroon started with the defense of its preliminary Report at the 31st Session of the Commission held in Pretoria in 2002, followed by its 1st and 2nd periodic reports submitted during the 39th Session (09-23 May, 2006), and the 47th Session (12-26 May, 2010) respectively in Banjul, the Gambia.
2. This report, first of all, contains some answers to recommendations made by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) following the presentation of the previous report in Banjul. It also reports on positive measures taken by the Government on the promotion and protection of human rights until the date of its submission.
3. It must be emphasized from the outset that during the period under review, Cameroon embarked on a development agenda, with the set ambition of becoming an emerging country, democratic and unified in its diversity by 2035. To achieve this goal, the Government designed a Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) in 2010. As the new strategic framework for Government action, the GESP encapsulates four general objectives, namely: to alleviate poverty in order to attain socially- acceptable levels, become a middle income country, achieve the status of a Newly Industrialized Country, strengthen national unity and consolidate the democratic process.

Three strategic guidelines were defined with a view to achieving this objective:

1. Growth strategy,
2. Employment strategy,
3. Strategy for improving governance and the strategic management of the State.

1) Growth strategy is structured around five priorities: infrastructural development, modernization of productive equipment, human resource development, regional integration and diversification of trade and finally financing the economy.

a) Infrastructural Development

- **Energy sector**, Cameroon hopes to definitively reduce the structural underfunding, become an exporter of electric power, thereby contributing to the equilibrium in the balance of trade of the country. Among the short-term measures envisaged are the construction of the Lom Pangar dam, the Yassa thermal power plant and the Kribi gas power plant. In the medium term, it is anticipated that the Memve'le dam, Nachtigal, Song Mbengue, Warak, Colomines and Ndockayo power plants will be constructed. In the long term, plans are underway for the development of several sites with the potential for energy export. The short term measures include in particular, the construction of the Lom Pangar dam, the Yassa thermal plant and the gas-fired plant at Kribi.
- **Road Sub-sector**, the road network to be rehabilitated (2000 km of asphalt roads by 2020); road works to be intensified consist of paving laterite roads (more than 3500 km by 2020). The intervention priorities consist of accompanying these developments with major industrial and agro-pastoral projects, the regional corridors (Trans-African, North-South corridor, CEMAC road network) ;

- **Transport sector**, the emphasis will be placed on the development of a new port and railway infrastructure to accompany the growth-stimulating priority projects. These mainly include the construction of a deep water port at Kribi, another at Limbé and the development of new railway lines (more than 1000 km), which are consistent with international standards ;
- **Water and sanitation**, the option prioritized by the Government in the urban areas is public-private-partnership and the establishment of bodies responsible for infrastructure and distribution respectively ;
- Regarding the prospect of Cameroon becoming an emerging country, the authorities have undertaken to formulate a **national management strategy on land assets** with specific emphasis on State-administered or State-managed landed property ;
- **In the ICT sector**, the strategic objectives by the year 2020 will consist mainly of : (i) extending the telephone density of fixed lines to 45% and the telephone density of mobile telephony to 65% ; (ii) providing 40 000 villages with access to modern means of telecommunication ; (iii) providing the public with an access offer of 2 Mb in all the cities with a digital exchange ; and (iv) increasing by 50-fold the number of direct and indirect employment ;
- **Concerning the postal sub-sector and postal financial services**, two programmes must be completed :
 - (i) The densification of the network and improvement in the national postal coverage to ensure geographical balance in postal services,
 - (ii) The development of a universal postal service to ensure that all citizens have access to postal services.

b) Modernization of production equipment

- **Rural Sector** : The government intends to launch a large-scale programme for increased agricultural production to meet not only the food needs of the population, but also those of the agro-industries ;
- **Mining** : to develop the existing mining potential, the authorities plan in particular to :
 - 1) Establish a national company for the creation of « joint-ventures » with private partners ;
 - 2) Improve knowledge about national and foreign private investors ;
 - 3) Develop programmes for the nationals in mining industry-related trades and professions.
- **Craft Industry and social economy** : the Government is determined to ensure that the craft industry becomes more attractive through support for the organisation and structuring of the sector, capacity building of artisans, strengthening of the craft business in its economic environment together with the marketing system ;
- **Industry and services** : the plan is to bridge the infrastructural gap, minimize the difficulties in accessing finance, and in the long term, put in place an overall development programme for the productive sectors. The medium term plan aims at collaborating with

some development partners to design special programmes to give impetus to competitiveness among SMEs in certain sectors, particularly in agro-industry, forestry and many other spheres of activity.

c) Development of Human Resources

To address the difficulties associated with access to financing, a bank will be established for SMEs. Its operations will commence very soon.

- **Health:** the Government hopes to achieve the objective of improving the health of the population by implementing the updated health sector strategy in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ;
- **Education and Vocational Training :** the measures relating to this sub-sector touch on :
 - 1) Improving access to basic education,
 - 2) Improving the quality of teachers and their working conditions,
 - 3) Choosing relevant programmes and (iv) Increasing and maintaining school infrastructure.
- **Social Protection:** To consolidate the gains and widen the scope of social security, the Government intends to carry out reforms in the main social protection mechanism in Cameroon ;
- **National Solidarity:** The Government intends to continue with the establishment of specialized structures for people with disabilities and other vulnerable persons. Special facilities will be highly prioritized to ensure their access to buildings and financial support to promote self-employment for this category of persons;
- **Gender :** In a bid to promote gender, the Government and the National Community will ensure equitable representation of girls in all sectors, particularly in vocational training , higher education and access to employment.

Regional Integration and diversification of trade

To support sustainable growth and employment creation, Cameroon's development policy of trade diversification falls within the context of consolidating sub-regional and regional integration and seeking opportunities in the European, American and Asian markets. It is based essentially on agricultural products by taking advantage of the rather favorable environment and ecology, particularly, by moving away from the raw materials to processed goods.

2) The employment strategy is based on the following pillars:

- 1) Increasing the offer of decent employment,
- 2) Matching skills with employment needs,
- 3) Improving market efficiency.

3) On the issue of governance and consolidation of the rule of law, two key objectives underpin measures taken in this regard . They consist of ensuring that all citizens are accorded improved respect for individual rights and public freedoms and **strengthening** the management of public affairs. With this objective in mind, four priority areas have been identified:

- 1) Strengthening the rule of law and ensuring the safety of persons and property,
- 2) Improving the business environment,

- 3) Strengthening the anti-corruption campaign and curbing misappropriation of funds,
 - 4) Improving information and public monitoring of the conduct of public affairs.
4. **On the strategic management of Government**, it focuses on **deepening the decentralization process, the continued modernization of public administration, human resource management by government and protection of the economic environment.**

Thus, the development vision presented by Cameroon encompasses the rights guaranteed by the Charter. The status of its implementation provides an opportunity to appreciate how the Government is putting into effect its obligations under the Charter.

5. **Regarding the methodological requirements, and to give effect to the recommendations of the ACHPR, the preparation and validation of this report were carried by using the participatory approach.** Thus, after a series of inter-departmental meetings involving all public and semi-public authorities responsible for monitoring human rights issues, a consultation was organised bringing together civil society and the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms. These meetings provided the opportunity to collect relevant information and data to enrich the content of this report. **This process therefore contributed to the momentum of dialogue, consultation and partnership consolidation between the Government and civil society on human rights concerns.**
6. This report is based on facts, activities and measures taken for the period 2008-2012. However, in a bid to obtain updated information at the time of its publication, mention was made of 2013 data.
7. This report consists of six (6) parts devoted respectively to the status of implementation of the recommendations of the ACHPR upon presentation of the second periodic report (Part I); progress made in the normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights (Part II); measures for the promotion and protection of civil and political rights (Part III); measures taken on the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights (Part IV); The developments recorded in the area peoples' rights are also analyzed (Part V); and also duties of citizens (Part VI). The conclusion makes it possible to highlight some of the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the provisions of the Charter.

PART ONE

FOLLOW-UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS AND QUESTIONS BY THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR)

8. This part sets out the implementation of recommendations made to Cameroon after defending its second Periodic Report. It will focus on the reminder of these recommendations (Chapter I) and measures taken towards their implementation (Chapter II).

CHAPTER I: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

9. At the end of constructive discussions among Honourable Commissioners and the Cameroonian delegation, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights made the following recommendations to the Government of Cameroon:

- 1- Harmonize the national legislation with regional and international standards in respect of rights protection for the indigenous population/communities;

- 2- Collaborate with and invite the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to embark on a promotional visit to Cameroon to continue with the dialogue on this subject matter and to find lasting solutions for the effective implementation of the rights of these populations ;
- 3- Adopt as early as possible relevant legislation to protect the rights of indigenous populations ;
- 4- Abandon the use of the term «marginal population» used as a tag for the indigenous populations, as recommended in the concluding observations of the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/CMR/CO/15-18) ;
- 5- Harmonize the land laws and adopt special measures to enable the indigenous populations to fully enjoy all their rights , particularly the right to landed property and work towards the recognition of their cultural peculiarities , including nomadism, to ensure that this factor is not detrimental to the exercise of their rights ;
- 6- Take all the necessary measures to guarantee to all political parties a free and fair electoral campaign during the next elections ;
- 7- Harmonize the national legislation with the Declaration of Principle on the Freedom of Expression in Africa, especially the decriminalization of press offences and the adoption of a law on access to information ;
- 8- Take all the necessary measures to make the right to freedom of expression effective and guarantee to journalists all the conditions of security in carrying out their professional duties ;
- 9- Strengthen the programmes and policies adopted on reproductive health to enhance the level of access by women and young girls to family planning, quality health services and easy access and also reduce maternal and infant mortality ;
- 10- Accelerate the reform of the criminal code by incorporating punishment for violence perpetrated against women including measures and programmes for the eradication of all forms of violence against women; this should also involve the training of judges, lawyers and officers of the criminal investigation department ;
- 11- Take all the necessary measures for the total and effective enforcement of the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, in particular by starting with the presentation of annual reports to the African Union on the status of women's rights in Cameroon ;
- 12- Prepare a gender representation policy for positions of responsibility, in this instance, the adoption of a 50% quota for women;
- 13- Take specific measures intended to guarantee the protection and implementation of the rights of indigenous women due to their high vulnerability and the discrimination they face ;
- 14- Take all the necessary and urgent measures towards the abolition of the death penalty in Cameroon according to international standards and resolutions of the African Commission on the abolition of the death penalty ;
- 15- Guarantee to workers the full and total exercise of their social and economic rights in order to avoid the deadly cycle of strikes which likely to cripple the economy of the country;

- 16- Cooperate with the African Commission to ensure the implementation of the Robben Island Guidelines, certain provisions of which centre on torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments, particularly by inviting the Commission to carry out a sensitisation mission to Cameroon in respect of this instrument to ensure the protection of human and peoples' rights ;
- 17- Provide disaggregated statistics on prisons and detention centres ;
- 18- Provide detailed information on living conditions of older persons and on measures to safeguard their rights ;
- 19- Provide comprehensive information on the living conditions of persons with disabilities and on measures to protect their rights ;
- 20- Guarantee the safety of human rights defenders as they carry out their duties in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the principles prescribed by the African Union Charter;
- 21- Provide reliable statistics and strengthen policies and plans for the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, in particular the right to food, access to potable water, housing and electricity;
- 22- Take the necessary measures to :
 - i. Ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance ;
 - ii. Ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on the Establishment of the African Court and make a Declaration under Article 34(6) of the said Protocol;
 - iii. Deposit as soon as possible the ratification instruments of the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa;
- 23- Collaborate with the different national Human Rights Commissions, members of civil society and stakeholders involved in human rights promotion activities in Cameroon, from the beginning to the end of the process, towards the preparation of periodic reports;
- 24- Take all the necessary measures for the presentation of the next periodic report in 2012;
- 25- Take legislative measures and any other actions for the effective implementation of all rights guaranteed by the African Charter, including Articles 27,28 and 29 ;
- 26- Provide disaggregated statistics describing the implementation of the rights prescribed by the African Charter and assess progress and the difficulties encountered;
- 27- Inform the African Commission about measures taken in response to the issues of concern raised and the way and manner the recommendations on these concluding observations have been implemented.

CHAPTER II – STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ACHPR

- 10.** This chapter outlines the measures taken and progress made in giving effect to the recommendations proposed by the ACHPR after considering the second periodic report of Cameroon within the framework of the Charter.

SECTION I :

Recommendations n°1), 2), 3), 4) 5), 13) on indigenous populations:

- 11.** It must be emphasized that the Constitution of Cameroon of 18 January, 1996 recognizes equality of all citizens in matters of rights and obligations. In fact, the Preamble and Article 64 of this fundamental law stipulate that «The State shall ensure the protection of minorities and shall preserve the rights of indigenous populations in accordance with the law ».
- 12.** In Cameroon, there is no deliberate intention to discriminate against any categories of citizens. However, by their way of life and cultural identity, some indigenous populations are not adapted to certain modern practices. In an attempt to identify the target populations as a means of properly incorporating their concerns into policies and programmes, a national study on indigenous populations was launched. The objective of the study was come out with criteria for their identification. The report on the first phase of this study was validated at a workshop held from 14 to 16 December 2011, in Kribi.
- 13.** While waiting for the outcome of the study, the promotion and protection of the fundamental rights of the population already considered as indigenous (especially the Pygmies and the Mbororos), are being demonstrated by positive measures taken at the national level through actions and projects

of different Ministerial departments involved (MINAS, MINFOF, MINEPAT, MINSANTE, MINEDUB, MINESEC, MINESUP, MINPROFF,.....).

14. These measures relate to their civil rights (issuance of birth and marriage certificates), economic and social rights (right to education, health, clean environment, forest conservation and the natural habitat where the population live).
15. Furthermore, there is the need to indicate the concern of the Parliamentarians in respect of this particular issue. In this regard, the first session between Parliament and Government concerning dialogue on indigenous issues was held at the beginning of September, 2011. At the end of the session, it was recommended that :
 - The ILO Convention 169 and the NAGOYA Protocol on access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits be ratified ;
 - A national law be passed to ensure respect for the fundamental rights of the Indigenous Populations ;
 - The inclusion of forest systems and customary lands in the review of land and forestry legislation of Cameroon ;
 - Solutions to land problems of the Mbororos and Pygmies of Cameroon should be found and the protection of their environment, their socio-economic rights should be ensured (health, education, culture, decent housing, and income-generating activities).
16. At this same session, it was recommended that Parliamentarians should support the Government technically and financially in the implementation of recommendations emerging from this dialogue.
17. Finally, it is noteworthy to indicate that following the request by the Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the ACHPR, the Government of Cameroon agreed in principle that the Working Group should undertake a mission to Cameroon.

SECTION II

Recommendation n° 6: Take all necessary measures to guarantee to all political parties free and fair electoral campaigns in the run-up to the next elections.

18. Some measures were taken to ensure transparency in the electoral process. These mainly concern the improvement of the normative and institutional mechanism, among others, by establishing an independent body responsible for the organization of elections, namely, "Elections Cameroon" (ELECAM), the adoption of a single Electoral Code on 13 April, 2012. The measures taken to ensure a successful conduct of the Presidential election of 09 October, 2011 are highlighted in the developments on the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs.
19. Moreover, plans were initiated on 8 October, 2012 to overhaul the electoral lists by introducing the biometric system to guarantee transparency in the elections.

SECTION III.

Recommendation n° 7: Harmonize the national legislation with the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa, in particular the decriminalization of press offences and the adoption of a law on access to information.

¹ It was therefore held after the seminar organized in 2006 by the ACHPR Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

20. In accordance with the Law of 19 December, 1990 and with all the subsequent legislation, press offences are hardly punishable in Cameroon by depriving people of their freedom. However, it must be stated in unambiguous terms that the criminal law in Cameroon systematically punishes common law offences, even when they are committed through the media. Furthermore, even in cases where the perpetrators are journalists, they are arraigned before the competent courts and are answerable for their actions.

21. **On the passage of a law on access to information**, Decree n°2002/2170/PM of 09 December, 2002, laying down the modalities for the issuance of press cards, makes special provision adopted by public authorities on access to sources of information for journalists bearing press cards.

SECTION IV.

Recommendation n° 8: *Take all the necessary measures to make the right to freedom of expression effective and ensure that journalists are provided with the best possible conditions of safety in exercising their professional duties.*

22. In this context, it is important to recall that in Cameroon freedom of expression is guaranteed by the Constitution of 18 January, 1996, the law of 19 December, 1990 on the freedom of social communication, as amended, and its implementing decree of 03 April, 2000 setting out the conditions and modalities for the establishment and operation of electronic communication.
23. Similarly, it must be mentioned that the signing on 23 January, 2012 of the Decree on the reorganization of the National Communication Council, transformed this advisory body into an organ vested with regulatory powers, which were previously the exclusive preserve of the Ministry of Communication.
24. Moreover, the public authorities supported the negotiations leading to the signing on 12 November, 2008 of the Collective Agreement of Journalists and Related Trades which has since then become a relevant contractual framework for protecting the activities and career of journalists in Cameroon.
25. In the same vein, the Government regularly provides different forms of support to the media, in particular, in the form of a huge annual financial outlay as its contribution to the development of press and media houses. With regard to the safety of journalists, the decree of 09 December, 2008 laying down the modalities for the issuance of press cards as indicated earlier on, makes provision for assistance and protection of journalists by the forces of law and order, where necessary.

SECTION V.

Recommendation n° 9: *Strengthen programmes and policies adopted on reproductive health to enhance the level of access by women and young girls to family planning, quality and easily accessible health services, and reduce infant and maternal mortality.*

26. In order to inform men and women on the use of the family planning method and other forms of contraception of their choice as a means of regulating births, awareness programmes have been formulated. The strengthening of « counseling » concerning the choice of the method is one of the prioritized approaches. Furthermore, the provision of family planning services and health care for secondary effects resulting from methods of contraception are available at all times in the health centres. Moreover, a Reference Hospital and Research Centre for the Application of Surgical Endoscopy and Human Reproduction (CHRACERH) was established in Yaoundé, with a view to promoting sexual and reproductive health.

27. With regard to maternal and infant mortality, which is a subject of serious concern to Cameroonian authorities, maternal and reproductive health of women has undergone a great deal of innovation in the area of maternal and emergency obstetrical care. The government of Cameroon has continued to promote community activities towards the training of personnel responsible for hygienic deliveries and umbilical cord care. In this regard, one hundred and five (105) service providers and eighty (80) community association members were trained during the period under review.

In addition, the following were undertaken:

- The acquisition of equipment for about thirty maternity homes in collaboration with UNFPA and UNICEF;
- Long-term measures in respect of basic emergency obstetrical care were taken in addition to full emergency obstetrical care as well as Emergency Essential Neonatal Obstetrical Care ,
- Post-abortion care, screening and obstetrical fistula services and management of complications.

28. These sustained efforts by the Government are visible today judging by the proportion of assisted births attended by skilled health personnel and the following obstetrical care indicators :

Table n°1: Percentage of access by women and girls to reproductive health services

Indicators	Base-line	Target
Percentage of women received for post-partum care	60	100
Assisted deliveries by skilled personnel	59	100
Proportion of repaired obstetric fistulas	00	90
Proportion of obstetric complications managed	24	51
Rate of Caesarian section operations	22.4	19.3
Modern contraceptive prevalence rate	54	0.0

Source: Health Information Unit of the Ministry of Public Health

❖ Free Health Care

29. Without attempting to generalize, free health care is operational in Cameroon for some diseases and target persons. This applies to the treatment of malaria in respect of children below five (05) years and expectant mothers. Free health care also applies to HIV-infected persons and those infected with tuberculosis. It can be noted that the cost of some non transmissible diseases like diabetes and cancer has reduced considerably.

SECTION VI.

Recommendation n° 10: Accelerate reforms of the criminal Code by introducing punitive clauses relating to violence perpetrated against women including measures and programmes to eradicate all forms of violence committed against women, especially by training judges, lawyers and officers in the criminal investigation departments.

30. **The draft bill of the Criminal Code, which is in the process of being finalized,** contains provisions that criminalize violence against women, in particular sexual harassment, disruption of the growth of an organ etc.

SECTION VII :

Recommendations n° 11, 12 on the rights of women:

31. The concluding observations of the ACHPR challenged the Government of Cameroon on the need to strengthen women's representation in decision-making positions and to focus on the situation of women in the informal sector.
32. Generally, to ensure a better incorporation of the recommendation on the need to take measures for the total and effective implementation of the African Union (AU) Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality on the one hand, and on the need to formulate a policy on gender representation in positions of responsibility on the other, it must be underscored that though the 50% quota prescribed the ACHPR has not been achieved, initiatives taken by the Government in that regard must be noted. These initiatives, among others, include an overall brainstorming on the status of the woman in Cameroon. Thus, a **National Gender Policy (NGP)** has been formulated, the vision of which is consistent with the general vision of Cameroon for 2035. It seeks to guarantee the enjoyment of the same rights by men and women including an equitable and equal participation in the development of the country.
33. The measures for the promotion and protection of the fundamental rights of women, taken to give effect to the relevant observations by the ACHPR will be critically examined in the developments pertaining to the rights of women.

SECTION VIII :

Recommendation n° 14: *Take the necessary and urgent measures towards the abolition of the death penalty in Cameroon in accordance with international standards and the Resolutions of the African Commission on the abolition of the death penalty.*

34. Cameroon has been observing a de facto moratorium since 1997. For this reason, since 2008, the country has been voting along those lines on resolutions at the United Nations General Assembly.

SECTION IX :

Recommendation n°15: *Guarantee to workers the full and total exercise of their social and economic rights in order to avoid the deadly cycle of strikes likely to cripple the country's economy.*

35. The developments on the right to work contained in the relevant section of this report will present the efforts made in this direction.

SECTION X :

Recommendation n°16: *Collaborate with the African Commission with the view to implementing the Robben Island Guidelines, some of the provisions of which focus on torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments, in particular by inviting the Commission to undertake a sensitization mission to Cameroon in respect of this instrument to ensure the protection of human and peoples' rights.*

36. A seminar on prevention and punishment for torture was organized in Yaoundé from 24 to 26 January 2012 in collaboration with the ACHPR. It brought together civil and military magistrates, officers of the criminal investigation departments (gendarmes and police officers), personnel of prisons' administration, health professionals from civil society organizations and the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (CNDHL). The conclusions of these sessions were forwarded to the ACHPR in April, 2012.

SECTION XI :

Recommendation n°17: *Provide disaggregated statistics on prisons and detention centres.*

1) Quantitative presentation of the prison population

37. The following statistical data and information satisfy the concerns raised by the Commission and provide an account of the prison situation during the period under review.

Table 2 : Statistical Developments on the average prison population from 2008 to 2010 depending on the categories of crimes.

Year	Accused Persons	Convicts	Overall Total	Capacity	Occupancy Rate
2008	15009	8977	23 929	14 965	159.6%
2009	14 485	8883	23368	15 250	153.2%
2010	14244	9522	23766	16 995	139.8%

Source : Ministry of Justice

Table 3 : Statistical trends on the average number of women and minors imprisoned from 2008 to 2011.

Year	Women			Minors					
	Accused Persons	Convicts.	T1	Accused persons			Convicts.		
				B	G	T2	B	G	T3
2008	358	175	535	605	13	618	120	04	124
2009	296	171	467	703	18	721	139	03	142
2010	357	131	488			496			91
2011	367	126	493			801			115

Source : Ministry of Justice

Legend: A: Accused C: Convicts: B: boys G: girls T1: total 1 T2: total 2

38. From the first table, it is clear that persons on remand outnumber all the other inmates, representing close to two thirds (62.48°/°), while the convicts constitute about a third (37.52°/°) of the prison population. To reverse this trend, seminars were organized to encourage the magistrates to apply the provisions of the criminal procedure code in a more sympathetic manner in relation to freedom. Thus, as part of the PRIDE Project (Protect the rights of Inmates and Detainees), four (04) training sessions were organized in 2010, for the magistrates, both civil and military in Yaoundé and Douala, the two cities with the highest prison population and therefore the most overcrowded.

39. It must be noted however that accused persons are increasingly exploiting the provisions of the criminal procedure code to request for their release. The table below reports on this dynamic in some courts of the country.

Table 4: Disputes on freedom in some courts in 2011

	Number of detentions	Request for release		Release		Habeas corpus: Agreed (A) Rejected (R)						Nolle Prosequi/ acquittal	Decisions on release reviewed by appellate bodies	
		Agreed	Rejected	With surety	Without surety	Administrative Custody		Military Custody		Common Law Custody				Others
						A	R	A	R	A	R			
CFI	5112	1045	224	264	702								918	19
District Court	3792	823	619	462	33	00	02	03	37	120	310	11	233	06
AC	449	111	88	48	39	00	00	02	00	00	04	34	44	06

Source : Ministry of Justice

40. Beyond litigation on freedom which can provide grounds for a reduction of overcrowding in the prisons, the expansion of the reception facility was also undertaken. Thus, from 2008 to 2010, 2030 additional occupancy spaces were created through rehabilitation and construction works on prisons initiated as part of the PACDET Project or the ADM/HIPC. Furthermore, it is also envisaged that under the ongoing reform of the Criminal Code, alternative sentences will be introduced, particularly community service.

41. With regard to specific categories, it has been noted generally that looking at total prison population, accused minors who are boys constitute an average of 2.53% as against 0.5% for girls. However, convicted minors account for an average of 0.5% of boys and 0.02% of girls.

42. In the case of women, accused persons constitute an average of 1.93% of the prison population as against 0.83% for convicts.

43. Concerning the principle of separation of adults from minors, men from women, it must be indicated that out of the seventy-four functional (74) prisons, fifty-one (51) have women's blocks and a block or section for minors. It is important to emphasize that only prisons situated in localities where there are courts have the facilities to accommodate women and minors.

2) *Health, Food, Leisure and socio-cultural activities, control of prison facilities,*

44. The improvement of health conditions between 2008 and 2010 took the form of construction of an infirmary in the central prisons of Yaoundé, Bafoussam Mbouda, Bertoua and Ebolowa, the five (05) other central prisons are also expected to benefit. The total budget outlay for the purchase of medicines increased by 100% in 2008, from FCFA 60 to 120 million, or (91470.38 to 182940.77 euros). It fell slightly in 2010, dropping to FCFA 111.926 000. The budget allotted to the health of detainees in 2011 was FCFA 86 513 000 or (132 080.91 euros).

45. An effort was made to increase the medical personnel posted to the prisons. As at 2010, the situation was as follows :

Table 5: Situation of personnel working in the prisons service in 2010

Technical	Staff strength		
	Men	Women	Total

Doctors	14	04	18
Enrolled Nurse	06	01	07
Assistant Nurse	40	33	73
Health Care Technical Officer	08	03	11
Assistant Nurse –Laboratory option	00	02	02
Overall Total	68	43	111

Source : Ministry of Justice

46. The food ration also increased from FCFA 107, or (0.163122 euros before 2006, to FCFA 215 CFA or (0.327768 euros) in 2008, then to FCFA 228 (0.348091 euros) in 2011, with the aim of attaining a target rate of FCFA 500 (0.762253 euros). It should be noted that with the support of donors, mostly religious denominations, efforts were made to serve the minors a second meal daily. Moreover, as a means of improving the feeding of detainees, the prisons engaged in farming activities by producing food crops. Thus, food crops were cultivated in farms in Garoua, Buea, Ebolowa and Bertoua. In the same vein, poultry farms were established in Yaoundé, Ngaoundéré, Bamenda, Bafoussam and Buea, and a pig farm in Maroua.

47. Concerning education, it is carried out generally in an informal way with the help of volunteers who are either detainees or staff of the prison's administration, or private individuals. A case in point is the Yaoundé Central prison. In 2009, six (6) candidates sat for the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) while eight (8) sat for the Baccalauréat (Advanced Level). Among all the candidates, only a candidate for the Baccalauréat finally passed the examination. Nevertheless, there is a school managed by the Ministry of Basic Education in the minors' block in the Bamenda central prison. For instance, during the 2009 examinations, five (5) minors out of ten (10) passed the *First School Leaving Certificate* (which marks the end of the primary cycle) in the Anglophone educational system of the country. The 2010 official examination session reveals that the following results were recorded by the detainees: twelve (12) passed the Primary School Leaving Certificate (CEP), eight (08) the Junior Secondary School Diploma (BEPC), two (02) the Preliminary A Level and two (02) passed the Baccalauréat. In 2011, the results of detainees in the Yaoundé Central prison were as follows, two (02) candidates out of seven (7) passed the CEP, four (4) passed the BEPC and two (02) passed the Preliminary A Level. The results obtained in the central prison of Sangmélima were as follows: one (1) candidate passed the CEP and another candidate passed the BEPC.

SECTION XII: Recommendations n° 18 and 19: On detailed information about the living conditions of older persons and persons with disabilities including measures to guarantee their rights.

48. The developments relating to this section will be presented in this report in due course.

SECTION XIII: Recommendation n° 20: Guarantee the safety of human rights defenders as they exercise their activities in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the principles laid down by the African Union Charter.

49. The celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 2010 by the United Nations was a time for Cameroon to join the International Community to observe the call for action launched in support of human rights defenders dubbed « **Express yourself ; put an end to discrimination** ».

50. To this effect, a sensitization session for Parliamentarians was organized at the National Assembly under the auspices of the United Nations Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa in collaboration with the National Commission on Human

Rights and Freedoms (CNDHL). Among the themes discussed were the international, regional normative standards and the mechanisms of Human Rights Defenders which helped to familiarize the audience with the peculiarities of this category of men and women who work individually or collectively towards the promotion and protection of human rights. Moreover, presentations were made by the United Nations Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, the Office of the Coordinator of the United Nations system, the Canadian High Commission in Cameroon and the University Agency of the Francophonie in Central Africa and the Great Lakes.

SECTION XIV: Recommendation n° 21: *Provide reliable statistics and strengthen policies and plans to promote economic, social and cultural rights, particularly the right to food, access to potable water, housing and electricity.*

51. The measures taken to guarantee the right to an adequate standard of living are outlined below.

SECTION XV: Recommendation n° 22:

52. i) and ii) *Measures for the ratification of certain international instruments*

-The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance was ratified on 9 August, 2011; its ratification instrument was deposited on 15 January, 2012.

- The ratification process of the Protocol to the African Charter on the Establishment of an African Court is ongoing.

53. iii) The ratification instruments of the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa were deposited in December 2012.

SECTION XVI Recommendation N°23: Collaboration with the CNDHL, Civil Society Organizations in the preparation of periodic reports

54. This recommendation was included in the preparation of this report as indicated in the introductory section.

SECTION XVII Recommendation N°24: On the presentation of the next periodic report in 2012

55. The submission of this report is in response to this recommendation in spite of the few months' delay in submitting it.

SECTION XVIII: Recommendation N°25: On the effective implementation of all the rights guaranteed by the African Charter, including Articles 27, 28 and 29.

56. Cameroon effectively implements the relevant provisions of these Articles

SECTION XIX Recommendation N°26: *On the use of disaggregated statistics describing the level implementation of the rights stipulated in the African Charter and the evaluation of progress achieved as well as difficulties encountered.*

57. The presentation of the status of implementation of the provisions of the Charter, as far as practicable, is a response to these directives.

SECTION XX Recommendation N°27: *On response to the concern expressed by the African Commission*

The status of response to the recommendations was forwarded to the ACHPR in line with note verbale N°1301/DIPL/D1 of 12 September, 2011.

SECOND PART

NORMATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

58. During the period under review, the normative framework (Chapter I) and institutional framework (Chapter II) for the promotion and protection of human rights underwent considerable development.

CHAPTER I- DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

59. The legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights developed significantly as a result of the ratification and signing of international instruments (Section I) and the preparation of a number of regulatory and legislative texts (Section II).

Section I- Ratification and signing of international instruments

A distinction will later be made between ratified instruments (§1) and signed instruments (§2).

§1 Ratified instruments

60. At the global level, they consist of the following :

- The UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage adopted in Paris on 17 October, 2003, ratified by Decree n°2008/178 of 22 May 2008 ;
- The Instrument of Amendment to the Constitution of the International Labour Organization , adopted in Geneva on 24 June 1986, ratified by Decree n°2008/360 of 06 November, 2008 ;
- The Treaty on Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone in Africa (Treaty of Pelindaba) signed in Cairo on 11 April, 1996, ratified by Decree n°2009/100 of 26 March, 2009 ;
- The Treaty on Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Ozone-Depleting Substances (s.a.o), adopted on 17 September, 1997 in Montreal and 3 December, 1999 in Beijing, ratified by Decree n° 2009/141 of 18 May, 2009 ;
- The Amendment of the International Labour Organisation Constitution, adopted in Geneva on 19 June, 1997 , ratified by Decree n°2009/347 of 29 October, 2009 ;
- The Optional Protocol relating to the United Nations Convention against torture and other punishments or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment ratified by Decree n°2010/347 of 19 November, 2010 ;
- Convention n°144 on Tripartite Consultations relating to International Labour Standards of 02 June, 1976, ratified on 14 December, 2011 ;
- The Statutes of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), signed in Bonn on 26 June, 2009, ratified by Decree n°2011/005 of 11 January, 2011 ;
- The Convention on the International Hydrographic Organization, adopted in Monaco on 03 May, 1967 to which Cameroon acceded by Decree n°2011/390 of 28 November, 2011 ;

- The Optional Protocol to the Convention relating to the Rights of the Child concerning the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts, adopted in New York , on 25 May, 2000, ratified by Decree n° 2012/243 of 30 May, 2012 ;
- The Amendment of Article XXI of the Convention on International Trade in Wildlife Species and Flora threatened with Extinction, adopted at the Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Parties, in Gaborone, Botswana on 30 April, 1983, approved by Decree n° 2012/244 of 30 May, 2012.

61. It is also necessary to indicate the commitments entered into under international humanitarian law. It concerns the ratification of the following instruments :

- The Second Protocol relating to the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in case of an Armed Conflict, ratified by Decree n° 2010/146 of 06 May, 2010 ;
- The Convention of 10 December, 1976 on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, ratified by Decree n° 2010/148 of 06 May, 2010;
- The Additional Protocol of 08 December, 2005 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the adoption of an additional Distinctive Sign (Protocol III), ratified by Decree n° 2010/149 of 06 May, 2010 ;
- The Conventions on Cluster Munitions adopted on 30 May, 2008, ratified on 09 June, 2011 by Decree n°2011/155 (12 July, 2012) ;
- The Second Convention of 02 April 1972 on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (bacteriological) and eventually on their Destruction, to which Cameroon acceded by Decree n° 2012/068 of 07 March 2012.

62. At the regional level, the following can be mentioned :

- Law n° 2011/023 authorizing the President of the Republic to ratify the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.
- The Convention of the African Energy Commission, adopted in Lusaka on 11 July, 2001, was ratified on 26 June, 2007, and the instrument of ratification deposited on 26 May, 2009 ;
- The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), adopted in Maputo on 11 July, 2003, was ratified by Decree n°2009/143 of 28 May, 2009, and the instrument of ratification deposited in January, 2013 ;
- The African Youth Charter, adopted in Banjul, on 02 July, 2006, was ratified by Decree n°2011/003 of 11 January 2011, and the instrument of ratification deposited on 29 June, 2011 ;
- The African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance, adopted in Addis Ababa on 30 January, 2007, was ratified by Decree n° 2011/240 of 09 August, 2011², and the instrument of ratification deposited on 16 January, 2012 ;
- The Treaty on the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa, signed in Quebec on 17 October 2008, was ratified by Decree n°2012/344 of 16 July, 2012.
- The Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, ratified on 14 December 2011

63. At the sub-regional level, the following can be mentioned :

- The Convention between CEMAC Member States on Judicial Cooperation and Assistance of 28 January, 2004, was ratified by Decree n°2008/110 of 12 March, 2008 ;
- The Revised CEMAC Treaty and related Conventions, ratified on 15 July, 2011.

² The deposit of the instrument of ratification by Cameroon on 15 January, 2012 heralded the entry into force of the Charter on 15 February 2012.

64. At the bilateral level, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cameroon and the French Government must be placed on record, and it relates to the concerted management of migratory movements and unified development signed in Yaoundé on 21 May 2009, and ratified by Decree n° 2010/150 of 6 May, 2010.

§1 Signed instruments

65. At the global level, they include following :

- The United Nations Conventions on the Rights of persons Living with Disabilities, adopted in New York on 13 December, 2006, and signed on 1st October, 2008 ;
- The Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in New York on 13 December, 2006, and signed on 1st October, 2008 ;
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Family, adopted in New York on 18 December, 1990, signed on 15 December, 2009 in New York ;

66. At the regional level, the examples below are worth mentioning:

- The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption adopted in Maputo on 11 July, 2003, signed on 30 June, 2008 ;
- The Protocol to the OAU Convention of 1999 on Preventing and Combating Terrorism adopted in Addis Ababa on 08 July, 2004, signed on 30 June, 2008.

67. At the sub-regional level, one may note the signing on 11 November 2009, in Libreville, Gabon, of two instruments adopted on 06 July, 2006, in Abuja, Nigeria by the ECOWAS/ECCAS Ministerial Conference. They are :

- The Regional Multilateral Cooperation Agreement on Combating Trafficking of Persons , in particular women and children in West and Central Africa,
- The Resolution on Combating the Trafficking of Persons.

68. At the bilateral level, one can mention the signing in January 2011 of the Convention on Combating Criminality between Cameroon and Spain.

Section II – The adoption of legislative and regulatory texts

69. Among the legislative and regulatory texts adopted at the national level to promote and protect human rights, one may indicate the following :

§1 Legislative texts

- Law n° 2009/004 of 14 April, 2009 on the organization of legal assistance ;
- Law n°2009/009 of 10 July, 2009 on the sale of buildings to be built and its implementing Decree n°2009/1726/PM of 04 September, 2009 ;
- Law n°2009/010 of 10 July 2009 on lease option agreements and its implementing Decree n°2009/1727/PM of 04 September, 2009 ;
- Law n°2009/011 of 10 July, 2009 on the financial regime of decentralized territorial authorities ;
- Law n° 2010/001 of 13 April 2010 on promotion of small and medium-scale enterprises in Cameroon ;
- Law n°2010/002 of 13 April, 2010 on protection and promotion of persons with disabilities
- Law n° 2010/003 of 13 April 2010 laying down the referendum procedure ;

- Law n° 2010/004 of 13 April, 2010 amending and complementing some provisions of the Law of 2004/006 of 22 July, 2004 on the establishment, organization and operations of the CNDHL ;
- Law n° 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 relating to cybersecurity and cybercrime in Cameroon ;
- Law n°2010/013 of 21 December, 2010 regulating electronic communications in Cameroon ;
- Law n°2010/020 of 21 December 2010 on the organization of leasing in Cameroon ;
- Law n°2010/022 of 21 December 2010 relating to the co-ownership of property and its implementing decree n°2011/1131/PM of 11 May, 2011 ;
- Law n° 2011/001 of 6 May 2011 laying down and complementing some provisions of law n°2006/011 of 29 December, 2011 on the establishment and operations of ELECAM ;
- Law n° 2011/002 amending and complementing some provisions of law n°92/010 of 17 September, 1992 establishing the conditions governing the election and the temporary replacement at the Presidency of the Republic ;
- Law n° 2011/011 of 06 May, 2011 amending and complementing some provisions of Order n° 81-02 of 29 June 1981 on the organization of civil registry and various provisions relating to the status of natural persons ;
- Framework Law n°2011/012 of 06 May 2011 on consumer protection in Cameroon ;
- Law n° 2011/013 of 13 July 2011 relating to voting by Cameroonians established and resident abroad and its implementing decree n°2011/237 of 08 August 2011 ;
- Law n° 2011/022 of 14 December 2011 regulating the electricity sector in Cameroon ;
- Law n° 2011/024 of 14 December 2011 on combating trafficking and human trafficking ;
- Law n° 2011/027 of 14 December 2011 amending and complementing some provisions of law n°2006/015 of 29 December 2006 on judicial organization ;
- Law n° 2011/028 of 14 December 2011 establishing a Special Criminal Court
- Decree n° 2011/389 of 28 November 2011 on the organization and functioning of bodies responsible for managing the status of refugees ;
- Joint Circular N°08/0006/LCCC/MINESUP/MINAS of 09 July 2009 relating to improved reception conditions and management of vulnerable students or those with disabilities in State Universities in Cameroon ;
- Law n° 2012/001 of 19 April 2012 on the electoral code ;
- Law n° 2012/015 of 21 December, 2012 amending and complementing Law n°2001/004 of 24 April 2001 on the organization and functioning of the Constitutional Council ;
- Law n° 2012/016 of 21 December, 2012 amending and complementing some provisions of Law n°2012 of 19 April 2012 on the electoral code.

§2 Statutory Instruments

- Decree n°2009/121 of 8 April 2009 on the establishment, organization and functioning of a Trust Fund for the modernization of research in State Universities ;
- Decree n° 2009/338 of 29 October 2009 on the adoption of a National Plan for Combating Accidental Oil and Gas Spillage in Cameroon and its Operational Manual ;
- Decree n°2010/374 of 16 December, 2010 on the institution of a valid mining licence for diamond and related substances ;
- Decree n°2011/019 of 1st February, 2011 on the establishment, organization and functioning of the Regulatory Mission for the Supply of Consumer Products ;
- Decree n°2012/119 of 15 March 2012 on the opening of administrative tribunals ;
- Decree n°2012/120 of 15 March 2012 on the opening of Magistrates' courts ;
- Decree n°2012/121 of 15 March 2012 on the establishment of a Legal Documentation and Judicial Multimedia Centre.

CHAPTER II : DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

70. New institutions (§2) or reformed ones (§1) deepened the institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights in Cameroon during the period under review.

§1 Reformed institutions

71. The operational rules of the National Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (CNDHL) were reviewed (A) just as ELECAM was restructured (B).

A- Review of the operationalization of the CNDHL

72. The operationalization of the CNDHL was reviewed by law n° 2010/004 of 13 April 2010, amending and complementing the provisions of law n° 2004/016 of 22 July 2004 on the establishment, organization and operationalization of the Institution. The purpose was to effectively guarantee the independence of the CNDHL, by taking away the voting rights of Government representatives. Henceforth, the latter participate in deliberations as observers. **This change led to the upgrading of Cameroon's CNDHL to Status « A » by the International Committee for the Coordination of National Human Rights Institutions (INDH).**

B- Reform of ELECAM

73. The institutional arrangement for the management of elections was reformed and the organization of elections by the authorities under the supervision of the National Elections Observatory (ONEL), was transferred to an independent body, *Elections Cameroon* (ELECAM). The promulgation of law n° 2006/011 of 29 December 2006 on the establishment, organization and functioning of *Elections Cameroon* was one of the key measures which demonstrated the determination of the Government to ensure that the conduct of the election is more modern, free and fair. The establishment of this body was characterized by a number of upheavals such as the appointment of its steering organs and the oversight responsibility of its missions as the concern was to guarantee transparent elections.

74. At the organizational level, the creation of ELECAM should have taken place eighteen (18) months after the promulgation of the law. This timeline was extended by six (06) months by law n° 2008/005 of 29 June 2008 amending and complementing some provisions of law n° 2006/011 of 29 December, 2006 on the establishment, organization and functioning of ELECAM. This extension was justified on the basis of the concern to peacefully establish this institution by respecting the procedural constraints. On 11 November 2008, Decree n° 2008/372 laying down the modalities for the implementation of some provisions of law n° 2006/011 was signed. According to the decree, all electoral activities will be conducted exclusively and independently by ELECAM without any interference from either the authorities or political parties once the steering bodies assume their duties. The advent of ELECAM was inspired by Decree n° 2010/319 of 13 October 2010.

75. This Decree was issued according to the provisions of Article 42 paragraph 3 of the law of 29 December 2006. It took effect after the establishment of all the operational structures of the institution, particularly its territorial branches and the joint election committees.
76. Furthermore, **the first governing bodies of ELECAM**, in this case Members of the Electoral Council , the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman were appointed by Decrees n° 2008/463 and n° 2008/464 issued by the President of the Republic on 30 December 2008. After these acts, the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of Elections were appointed by Decree n° 2008/470 of 31 December 2008. This steering bureau assumed duty on 20 January 2009. The appointment of the members of ELECAM gave rise to an argument both internally and at the international level on the political leanings of the members of the Electoral Council. Law n° 2011/001 of 06 May 2011 laying down and complementing some provisions of Law n°2006/011 of 29 December 2006 on the establishment, organization and functioning of Elections Cameroon increased the membership of the Electoral Council from twelve (12) to eighteen (18).
77. The appointment of six (06) new members by presidential Decree n°2011/204 of 07 July 2011 made it possible to diversify the profiles by strengthening the membership with personalities mainly from civil society, the clergy and political parties³. The latter swore the oath before the Supreme Court sitting as a Constitutional Court on 21 July 2011. However, the impartiality and neutrality of one of the members was brought into question during the electoral campaigns for the presidential elections in October 2011. By way of penalty, Madam BIYONG Pauline, was suspended from the Electoral Council by decree n°2011/335 of 07 October 2011, for serious misconduct and violation of oath duly sworn before the Electoral Council.
78. With regard to its functioning , Law n° 2010/005 of 13 April 2010 amending and complementing some provisions of law n° 2006/011 of 29 December, 2006 on the establishment , organization and functioning of « ELECAM » amended Articles 7 and 40 of the organic law governing ELECAM in order to clearly establish the principle of consultation between the institution and other stakeholders in the electoral process on the one hand, and of collaboration and support of the authorities in electoral matters, on the other. In this regard, the crucial role of political parties was recognized through the participation of their representatives in the various committees responsible for the review of the electoral register, the distribution of voters' cards , the conduct of the elections, the counting and tallying of the votes respectively.
79. Moreover, this law ensured a judicious involvement of State officials, judicial authorities and civil society groups in order to establish fairness in the electoral process.
80. Furthermore, Article 6 of this law entrusts the Electoral Council with full powers to ensure that all stakeholders comply with the electoral law to guarantee due process, impartiality, fairness and sincerity in the polls; in the like manner, Article 22 makes provision for a Director-General of Elections to be responsible for all electoral activities and referenda, under the control and supervision of the Electoral Council. These two provisions take away from the Electoral Council the prerogative of publishing results, thus vesting this power in the Constitutional Council which publishes the results of the presidential and legislative elections as well as referenda by implementing the provisions of Article 48 paragraph 1 of the Constitution.

§2) New institutions

³ This includes Bishop Watio Dieudonné, Mesdames Tsanga Delphine, Biyong Pauline as well as Messrs. Titi Nwel Pierre Tiku Tambe Christopher, Nsangou Issoufa.

81. This refers to the Inter-ministerial Monitoring Committee on the Implementation of the recommendations and/or decisions of international and regional human rights promotion and protection mechanisms (A) and the Inter-ministerial Committee for Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking (B).

A- Inter-ministerial Monitoring Committee on the Implementation of Recommendations

82. By Order n° 081/CAB/PM d of 15 April 2011, an Inter-ministerial Monitoring Committee was established for the Implementation of international and regional Human Rights promotion and protection mechanisms including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). The Committee which reports to the Prime Minister and Head of Government, is vested, among others, with the power to :

- Draw up a list of the different cases before these bodies ;
- Propose ways of addressing the recommendations and/or decisions of these bodies ;
- Ensure the implementation of validated proposals ;
- Brainstorm on the possibility of reducing or avoiding situations where the Government is blamed in cases investigated by these bodies ;
- Encourage and oversee training schemes relating to the promotion and protection of human rights.

B- Inter-ministerial Committee for Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking

83. By Decree n° 163 of 02 November, 2010, an Inter-ministerial Committee for Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking was established. Under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Office, this Committee is responsible for coordinating and ensuring consistency on the part of the various stakeholders in addressing issues on human trafficking. In this regard, as part of the 2010-2011 action plan,, the Committee identified five priority areas for action aimed at enhancing efforts to continue to sanction perpetrators of human trafficking; capacity building of personnel engaged in law enforcement as well as social workers ; the adoption of a law on trafficking adults; training of personnel engaged in law enforcement using electronic databases as a tool for addressing the phenomenon and surveys on allegations of abuses associated with hereditary practices in the form of bonded labour in the Northern regions of the country. It must be noted that law n° 2011/024 of 14 December, 2011 has already been adopted in respect of combating trafficking and human trafficking.

PART THREE:
IMPLEMENTATION OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
GUARANTEED BY THE CHARTER

- 84.** The relevance of civil and political rights in Cameroon from 2008 to 2012 as far as civil rights are concerned, is structured around measures taken by the Government to guarantee equality of all citizens before the law and protect the rights to life, freedom, security and the right not to be subjected to torture, thus giving effect to international legal instruments ratified by Cameroon on these matters.
- 85.** The implementation of the right to a fair trial can be considered by assessing the effectiveness of guarantees relating to the courts and the increase in the staff strength in the judicial service, and guarantees in respect of persons being tried who can only be convicted based on de facto and de jure decisions. The normative and institutional frameworks as well as measures for promoting freedom of expression and communication are taken into account while the critical role played by human rights defenders are reaffirmed, not without identifying the inherent shortcomings of their activities. The implementation of political rights is characterized by progress in consolidating the electoral system and by the effective implementation of decentralization.
- 86.** The developments scheduled in the following chapters will enable a progress report to be presented in the following aspects.

Chapter 1: Non discrimination and equality before the law

Chapter 2: Rights to life, freedom, security and the right not to be subjected to torture;

Chapter 3: Right to a fair trial;

Chapter 4: Freedom of belief;

Chapter 5: Freedom of expression and communication;

Chapter 6: Freedom of association and assembly;

Chapter 7: The right to participate in the conduct of public affairs;

Chapter 8: The right to property;

Chapter 9: The right to peace and security both at the national and international level;

Chapter 10: The independence of the Judiciary;

Chapter 11: The right to free movement and choice of residence, leaving a country and seeking asylum.

Chapter 1 : NON DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW (ARTICLES 2 AND 3 OF THE CHARTER).

87. This overarching principle is clearly enshrined in the Constitution of Cameroon. It was incorporated in paragraphs 92, 93, 94 and 95 of the 2nd periodic report of Cameroon in accordance with the Charter.
88. The developments contained in the report referred to, particularly in paragraphs 93, 94 and subsequent ones are relevant.

Chapter 2: THE RIGHTS TO LIFE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON AND THE RIGHT NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENTS OR TREATMENT (ARTICLES 4, 5 AND 6 OF THE CHARTER).

89. During the period under review, measures for the protection of life and the physical integrity of persons under the authority of the State were geared towards addressing the various violations recorded⁴. Measures were taken towards capacity building of staff involved in law enforcement (Section I) in addition to disciplinary sanctions (Section II) and criminal justice sanction against rights violations (Section III).

Section I: Measures on capacity building of personnel responsible for law enforcement

90. Human rights' training is part of the programmes for Advanced Institutes and Training Centres of the National Gendarmerie. Thus, at the Law and Order Technical Development Centre, a total amount of 60 hours is set aside for modules on leaders responsible for the implementation of laws and human rights, respect for human rights in law enforcement and legislation concerning policing. At the Police Detective Training Centre, 24 hours are set aside for the module entitled "Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms". At the Yaoundé Training Centre, 24 hours have been set aside for the topic "Introduction to Human Rights". This training is offered by facilitators in the different centres and trainers from the United Nations Sub-Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.
91. With regard to the National Security personnel, **some of them are being trained in Human Rights at Masters Level at the Catholic University**. Furthermore, courses in Human Rights have been incorporated in the teaching programmes at the National Advanced Police Training Academy and the Police Training and Policing Centre at Mutengene in addition to the institution of compulsory educational talks in the police units every Monday afternoon.
92. Apart from these ongoing training sessions , specific activities are organized. For instance in 2011, police criminal detective officers were trained in human rights at the Police Training Centre in Yaoundé on 3 November, 2011 including a training of trainers' seminar on human rights in the

⁴ Statistics from the gendarmerie units in 2011 on violent crimes indicated that the following cases were recorded: 1.600 cases of assault and unintentional injuries, 22 cases of violence against siblings, 17 persons killed by law enforcement officers, 16 cases of infanticide and 14 cases of kidnapping for ransom. The violent crimes committed with firearms were as follows : 524 armed robberies, 199 carjacking and robberies , 71 highway robberies, 220 burglaries in institutions, 312 home robberies, 16 seaborne attacks, 8 hostages freed, 72 assaults and different forms of burglaries. It must be emphasized that 28 gendarmes were killed in the line of duty.

Prison's Administration at the National Prisons Administration Training School in Buea. It must be recalled that a seminar was organized on 15 and 16 November 2012 in Yaoundé for detective officers in the Police Service and Gendarmerie on the theme « **The Right of all to justice and fair trial**» and « **protecting victims**»,

93. These different training sessions should make it possible for rights violations to be minimized and in the event where violations occurred, they were punished by the competent disciplinary bodies and criminal courts during the period under review.

Section II : Disciplinary measures

94. The following table provides the status of disciplinary measures taken against national security personnel during the period under review.

Table n° 6: Disciplinary measures taken against national security personnel in 2009, 2010 and 2011

YEAR	ORIGINATING INSTITUTIONS	1 ST CATEGORY	2 ND CATEGORY	3 RD CATEGORY	TOTAL
2009	HRD (Human Resource Directorate)	45	260	11	316
	SSCD (Special Services Control Division)	33	248	35	316
2010	HRD (Human Resource Directorate)	62	147	22	231
	SSCD (Special Services Control Division)	50	228	149	427
2011	HRD (Human Resource Directorate)	54	198	19	271
	SSCD (Special Services Control Division)	17	84	72	173
TOTAL		261	1 165	308	1 734

Source : Delegation for National Security

Section III: Status of criminal justice measures in respect of certain rights violations

95. This was provided both by the ordinary courts (§1) and military courts (§ 2) as indicated below:

§1 Status of cases before the ordinary courts

A- The right to freedom and security

96. The right to freedom takes us back to litigation before the courts.

The table below provides the trends regarding cases on freedom referred to national courts in 2011, apart from military courts.

Table n°7 : Statistics on cases pertaining to freedom

Number of detentions	Requests for release		Release		Habeas corpus (specify if the request was accepted or not) : Agreed(A) Rejected (R)						Release/ acquittal	Decisions on release reviewed by appellate bodies
	Agreed	Rejected	On bail	Without bail	Administrative custody		Military custody		Common law custody			
					A :	R :	A :	R :	A :	R :		

CFI	8182	3486	944	2924	512	00	00	00	00	26	14			918	19
DC	3792	823	619	462	333	00	02	03	37	120	310			233	06
AC	449	111	88	48	39	00	00	02	00	00	04			44	06
SC															

Source : MINJUSTICE

97. The offences warranting arrest and custody, abuse of office and forced labour have a direct bearing on the freedom of movement, a presentation of statistics on investigations and prosecution of these offences follows in the table below :

Table n°8 : Statistics on cases relating to the right to freedom

Offences	Number of investigations	Number of prosecutions initiated		Number of convictions	Number of acquittals/Releases	Victims			Offenders		
		Judicial inquiry	Before competent courts			M	W	C	Personnel responsible for law enforcement	Persons with authority over the victim	Others
Arrest and detention	85	29	84	40	02	45	10	04	03	04	07
Abuse of office	16	10	16	13	02	15	00	00	05	00	01
Forced labour	05	02	01	01	00	00	02	01	04	06	01

Source : MINJUSTICE

98. Finally, the Government, with the support of its international partners and civil society focused the capacity building efforts on training law enforcement officers. This can only be effective if the training is sustained and targeted at all concerned stakeholders.

B) The right to life and physical integrity

Table n°9 : Statistics on violent crimes

Offences	No. of investigations	Number of prosecutions initiated	Number of convictions	Number of acquittals/releases	Victims	Offenders

		At the investigation stage	Before competent courts			M	W	C	Personnel responsible for law enforcement	Persons with authority over the victim	Others
Murder	287	244	185	126	37	203	57	25	05	04 (1 case of family relationship)	101
Murder	350	245	187	120	23	220	32	04	02	06	75
Tortur	14	11	08	06	00	11	03	04	02	03	01
Serious	211	176	96	70	04	138	50	00	02	04	47

Source : Ministry of Justice

§ 2- Status of cases pending before military tribunals

Table n°10: Status of cases pending before military tribunals

N°	SURNAMES AND FIRST NAMES	RANKS	OFFENCES	JUDICIAL INQUIRY	PROVISIONAL MEASURES	FINAL PUNITIVE SANCTIONS
01	-WINDZEEREN ABDOU -ABEA Raphaël -ETOUMAN Richard	2° CL Civil	Arbitrary arrest and sequestration, threat under conditions of aggravated theft, conditional threats, aggravated theft, joint gang rape	Order of information n° (01) 582 of 18 November 2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations Military Tribunals (MT) Buea
02	FAKMEGNE Joseph	ACM	Abuse of office and misappropriation of funds	Order of Information n° 559 of 11/11/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations Military Tribunal (MT) Yaoundé
03	MAMA Nestor	Gend	Violation of order (failure to comply with requirements relating to safekeeping of service weapon and murder)	OI n° 541 of 10/11/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Committal order N° 21 of 28/02/12 MT of Garoua
04	-MEH James CHE -KUM YUH Valentine		Violation of order (improper use of service weapon, murder, complicity in murder)	OI n° 541 of 31/10/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations MT of Buea
05	ABOUBAKAR	SGT	Arrest and sequestration	OI n° 500 of 12/12/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Dismissal of proceedings (lack of records) MT of Garoua
06	-TAKENJIO Celestin -YAYA IBRAHIM -NANA Théophile		Arrest and sequestration	OI n° 446 of 19/08/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Notification order N° 24 of 22/02/12 MT of Buea

07	-NGUNKENG -ZRENCE FONGANG -MUNGWATON Wilson -AKAYA -WIBOU	2 ^e . CL	Dangerous bearing of firearm for defense, violation of order, arbitrary sequestration by joint action	OI n° 430 of 12/08/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations MT of Douala
08	TOUME ITIA Justin	Adjt	Violation of order (had intimate relations with a woman in custody) and rape	OI n° 418 of 12/08/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations M T of Douala
N°	SURNAMES AND FIRST NAMES	RANKS	OFFENCES	JUDICIAL INQUIRY	PROVISIONAL MEASURES	FINAL PUNITIVE SANCTIONS
09	-KPOUMIE MAMOUDA -NKOULOU Serges		Abuse of office and unlawful custody of someone's property	OI n°392 of 19/07/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Final Referral Order for N° 22 of 23/01/12 MT of BFM
10	-MENGUE Samuel -MANNE Mireille Sonia		Arrest and arbitrary sequestration and minor injuries, complicity of arrest and arbitrary detention	OI n°357 of 15/06/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations MT of Yaoundé
11	TCHIJIP TEUPDJIEU Rolince	A/C	Arbitrary arrest and sequestration, violation of order (non compliance with orders on judicial custody)	OI n°352 of 15/06/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations MT of Yaoundé
12	-AFANE François -NDJIDDJA NYAMSI Hervé G. -NJUME Lovet EWANG -FONDENE ZAMBO -SOUMA Richard	Military personnel	Violation of orders (inappropriate service) acts of torture, joint aggravated theft, assassination attempt, conditional threats	OI n°280 of 31/05/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Notification order of 14/12/11 MT of Yaoundé
13	-OTELE -SALE -DAOUDA HAMDJODA -IDRISSOU	2 ^e CL 2 ^e CL	Arrest and arbitrary sequestration , abuse of office and complicity in the same offence	OI n°276 of 11/05/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations MT of Garoua
14	BIAGNE ABEGUIDE Charles		Violation of order (failure to comply with rules on condition for judicial requirement) arbitrary arrest and sequestration including abuse of office	OI n°263 of 30/05/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations MT of Yaoundé
N°	SURNAMES AND FIRST NAMES	RANKS	OFFENCES	ORDER OF JUDICIAL ENQUIRY	PROVISIONAL MEASURES	FINAL PUNITIVE SANCTIONS
15	-CHINDO AMADOU		Abuse of office, torture, violation of instruction (inappropriate service), arbitrary arrest and sequestration as well as complicity	OI n°233 of 10/05/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations MT of Garoua
16	-SALI Thomas	A/C	Joint arbitrary arrest			

	-BANGAINA Jean Félix -ABDOURAMAN HAMADOU	MDLC Civil	and sequestration, minor bruises and complicity in the same offence	OI n°232 of 10/05/2011	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations MT of Garoua
17	-NSOM Bernard	MDL	Arbitrary arrests and sequestration, slight bruises	OI n°231 of 10/05/11	Disciplinary Sanctions	Referral Order 24/02/12 MT of Douala
18	ABO DJOULDE	2 ^e CL	Arrest and sequestration	OI n°211 of 28/03/11	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations MT of Garoua
19	NGO BIDJEM Laurentine	A/C	Violation of orders (an act that casts a slur on military honour , arbitrary arrest and sequestration as well as torture)	OI n°210 of 28/03/11	Disciplinary Sanctions	Ongoing judicial investigations MT of Yaoundé
20	-MPENG Sylvain Albert Loïc -MANGUI BIANGO Anicet	MDLC MDL	Violation of orders (inappropriate conduct) arbitrary arrest and detention, rape and complicity)	OI n°144 of 17/03/11	Disciplinary Sanctions	Adjournment of hearing of 03/04/12 MT of Douala
21	-ANGOUMOU Louis Patrice -NYAME NGAKE Francis -EKWALLA SIDONIE		Violation of orders (non compliance with regulations governing the conduct of judicial enquiry), abuse of office and arbitrary sequestration and complicity in the same offence	OI n°137 of 17/03/11	Disciplinary Sanctions	Adjournment of hearing to 27/03/12 MT of Douala
N°	SURNAMES AND FIRST NAMES	RANKS	OFFENCES	ORDER OF JUDICIAL ENQUIRY	PROVISIONAL MEASURES	FINAL PUNITIVE SANCTIONS
22	ONANA MBIA Paul	CAL	Violation of orders (inappropriate use of a service weapon and murder)	OI n°124 of 11/03/11	Disciplinary Sanctions	Hearing scheduled for 07/03/12 at the MT Yaoundé
23	OKALA Eugène		Insulting a senior officer, arrest and sequestration	OI n°074 of 03/02/11	Disciplinary Sanctions	Judicial proceedings are ongoing at the MT of Yaoundé
24	-BIHINA MBARGA Gabriel -HYENG René -DJABARAKNA Maurice -ATANGA Gabriel -DONFACK Dieudonné		Jointly perpetrated act of torture	OI n°442 of 12/08/11	Disciplinary Sanctions	Judicial investigation is ongoing MT of Yaoundé

Source : MINDEF

Legend : 2^e CL : Private ; ACM : Chief Warrant Officer; Gend : Gendarme ; AdJt : Warrant Officer; A/C : Chief Warrant Officer ; MDI : Sergeant ; MDLC : Staff Sergeant ; CAL : Corporal ; SGT : Sergeant

Chapter 3 : THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL (Articles 7 paragraph 1 and 26 of the Charter)

99. Free access to justice (section I) will be tackled simultaneously as the independence of the courts (section II).

Section I : Free access to justice

100. Improved access and quality of judicial service appears to be one of the strategic priorities identified in the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) to strengthen governance and the rule of law. This option is divided into facilitation of material conditions for accessing justice (§1) and improvement in the judicial system (§2).

§1 –Material conditions for access to justice

101. **With regard to the material conditions for access to justice**, it can be noted that after the finalization of the Growth and Employment Strategy, the reform of judicial assistance mentioned in the previous report (Paragraph 107) culminated in the promulgation of law n°2009/004 of 14 April 2009 on the organization of judicial assistance. This law which repeals Decree n°76/521 of 09 November 1976 aims at promoting equality before the law and facilitating access to justice by all citizens. It lays down the conditions for obtaining tax amnesty, sets up competent bodies and outlines the modalities for seizure, determines conditions for withdrawal of judicial assistance. Furthermore, the same law covers the selection of persons who are beneficiaries of legal assistance as of right. This includes workers who fall victim to any occupational hazards for which legal proceedings have been initiated for payment of compensation by employer; an unemployed person without any resources and left to his own devices by their spouse and a person facing the death penalty who has appealed against his conviction.
102. The law organizing judicial assistance is innovative in that, on the one hand, it sets up committees and competent bodies in every court, and it makes it possible for legal persons to access judicial assistance on the other. The full implementation of the law is still beset with difficulties such as ignorance of accused persons and constraints in attaining the necessary quorum within the various committees.

The table below provides the initial developments on the implementation of the new law.

Table n° 11: Developments in granting judicial assistance from 2010 to 2011

Level of Court	Number of petitions recorded in 2010	Number of petitions recorded in 2011	Developments	Number of decisions ending in agreement in 2010	Number of decisions ending in agreement in 2011	Developments
CFI	158	184	+26	126	105	-21
District Court	149	202	+53	96	177	+81
AC	65	34	-31	11	19	+08
SC	24	12	-12	03	02	-01
Total	396	432	+36	236	303	+67

Source : MINJUSTICE

103. This is not a comprehensive table because the implementation of the 2009 law is beset with challenges such as the problem of setting up judicial assistance committees by appointing representatives from the public services and the lack of awareness creation among the target audience. These constraints make it imperative for brainstorming to ensure that the law impacts positively on the most deprived social classes to enable them gain access to justice.

§2- Improvement of the judicial system

104. On the judicial system, the operationalization of the ten (10) regional administrative courts by Decree n° 2012/119 of 15 March 2012 is ongoing. Against this background, and as part of the

Justice Sector Support Project (PAJ), the staff, magistrates, court clerks and judicial assistants, attorneys and the bailiffs were offered a specialized training in administrative disputes, and at the end of the session of the Judicial Council, the first officials for these courts were appointed on 18 April 2012.

105. Furthermore, the judicial map was enhanced with the addition of eight (08) Courts of First Instance and two (02) District Courts by Decree n° 2012/120 of 15 March, 2012. The Courts of First Instance are in Yaoundé-Mendong, Makari, Doukoula, Kar-Hay, Douala-Bonabéri, Touboro, Bali, Baham and Bandjoun. The District Courts one the other hand are those in Hauts Plateaux and Koung-Khi. The number of district courts has increased from 56 to 58, thus bridging the gap at this level. However, the judicial map must still be developed, in terms of courts of first instance where the number has increased from 67 to 75, but the actual number required is 338.

Section II- Independence of the Courts

106. The developments in paragraphs 142-1 to 150 of the previous report are still relevant. Since then, in seeking to improve the quality of the justice delivery system, a sector-based strategy for the sub-sector was formulated and validated in 2011. The sub-sector is perceived as leverage for consolidating the rule of law, good governance and a decisive factor to enhance the business environment. The strategic axes are divided into three components: consolidation of the rule of law, legal and judicial security, protection of citizenship rights, improved management and governance. To ensure institutional strengthening of the judiciary, some priority actions were identified. They include, among others :

- Review of staff regulations. The regulations pertaining to court registries and prisons' administration have already been updated⁵. The remaining regulations due for review relate to magistrates.
- Upgrading the salary scales and allowances of the staff of the judicial service and prisons' administration;
- Training for staff of the judicial service. In this regard, apart from the above-mentioned training provided in the area of administrative disputes, an in-service training plan for staff was prepared by the Ministry of Justice in 2011 on the OHADA Law consisted of 10 regional seminars (40 participants each), 15 seminars (1st phase of 5), on a range of thematic areas such as strategic planning, public procurement disputes, judicial statistics, the rights of detainees, intellectual property, administrative reporting, human rights and refresher courses for ancillary staff.

Chapter 4 : FREEDOM OF BELIEF (Article 8)

107. This freedom is part of fundamental freedoms enshrined in the preamble of the Constitution. In fact, the religious landscape of Cameroon is characterized by the peaceful co-existence of various Christian, Muslim and animist communities. On freedom of religion, in view of the secular

⁵ See Decree n° 2010/365 of 29 November 2010 on the special status of the prison's administration corps of officials

nature of the State, the Government continues to authorize the establishment of churches and formation of religious associations. In 2011, there were 47 churches, 128 religious associations out of which 81 congregations were from the Catholic Church.

108. The maintenance of public order sometimes leads to the restriction of this freedom as part of administrative policing. Thus, in 2009, some authorized churches like the «The Church of Christ » and «Deeper Christian Life Church », officially caused the closure of places of worship which were fraudulently using their corporate name. Moreover, in the area of public sanitation, the proximity of places of worship to residential communities has quite often brought about violent conflicts among the worshippers. The neighbors in these localities questioned the authorities about noise-making, and these sometimes led to the suspension of activities of some religious organizations. The sanctions placed on activities of such religious associations are removed once corrective measures are taken by these bodies. For example, that was the case, in 2009, when the « Universal Pentecostal Assemblies Mission » and the « International Full Grace Chapel » were banned in Yaoundé.

Chapter 5 : RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND FREEDOM OF COMMUNICATION (Article 9)

109. Paragraphs 116 to 120 on freedom, the right to information and freedom of communication in the 2nd periodic report of Cameroon are still relevant. The implementation of this right continued within the period under review with the development of the normative and institutional framework (Section I), improved access to information and communications technology (Section II), opening up of the media landscape (Section III), and brainstorming on improved public assistance for private communication (Section IV). Moreover, some journalists were prosecuted at the request of citizens for violation of their rights (Section V).

Section I- Developments in the legal and institutional framework

110. The legal and institutional framework was marked by the adoption of new laws (§1) and the reform of the National Communication Council (§2).

§1-Adoption of new laws

111. It is noteworthy to mention the adoption of Law n° 2010/012 on cybersecurity and cybercrime (A) and Law n° 2010/013 of 21 December, 2010 governing electronic communications (B) on which brief comments can be made.

A- The law on cybersecurity and cybercrime

112. This law regulates the security framework of electronic communication networks and information systems, and it also defines and punishes infringements relating to the use of information and communication technologies. It also aims to establish confidence among the electronic communication networks and information systems, to define the legal regimes regarding digital proof of security activities, cryptology and electronic certification and to protect the fundamental rights of natural persons, particularly the right to human dignity, honor and respect for privacy as well as the legitimate interests of legal persons.

B- Law regulating electronic communications

113. Law n° 2010/013 of 21 December 2010 aims at promoting the harmonious and balanced development of electronic communication networks and services with a view to contributing to the development of the national economy and meeting the numerous needs of users. It establishes the modalities for the operation of electronic communication networks by respecting the set standards for national defense and public security. It encourages and promotes the participation of the private sector in the development of electronic communications in a competitive environment.

§2- Reform of the National Communication Council

114. From advisory body, the Council becomes a regulatory body to address the deficiencies and correct the deviations observed in the journalism profession.

Section II- Improvement in the communications access offer

115. There has been a transition from the period of 26 telecentres in 2010, to 30 operational telecentres in 2012, and the commissioning of 117 telecentres and digital access points, the construction of 28 telecentres, and furthermore, the connection of 45 administrative authorities by fibre optics for internet access.

Section III- Plethora of media houses

116. In 2011, the media landscape had twelve (12) private television stations alongside the national station, about a hundred private radio stations apart from the public broadcasting station and more than five hundred (500) newspapers in the print media with four dailies published regularly.

Section IV- Public Assistance for Private Communication

117. Public assistance continued to be given to the private media. In 2010, an amount of CFA 200 Million francs was disbursed and distributed to 353 media houses, general communication and professional organizations and printing press. In 2011, out of 176 applications considered, 37 were rejected for various reasons while 139 were found to be eligible for an overall allocation of CFA 135 million. The determining criteria for providing assistance are consistency of tax issues and requirements of regular contracts, but these criteria were not fulfilled by the various businesses

which applied. The members of this Committee unanimously recognized the urgency for a review of the text establishing this assistance package in order to structure it around the constantly changing communication environment and incorporate provisions which will enable the multilateral partners to be associated with the assistance programme as a means of increasing the quantum of funds earmarked for private communication through public assistance.

118. A brainstorming has been initiated on the strategies aimed at increasing the amount of assistance as well as an enhanced definition of the modalities for distribution. Against this backdrop and with hindsight, improved control mechanisms are envisaged in the way assistance received by the different beneficiaries is used, including the definition of guidelines to stem the proliferation of professional associations and organizations which resort to assistance.

Section V- Proceedings against journalists

119. In the current media landscape of Cameroon, the flexible conditions of access to journalism as a profession have made it possible for professionals from various backgrounds to enter the sector. It can be observed that the respect for ethical standards is not generally complied with. Furthermore, the control by peers through professional organizations is difficult to implement. It is in this context that legal actions have been instituted against journalists before the courts at the request of citizens who claim journalists have infringed their rights. The most recurrent offences are defamation, dissemination of lies and offences against image rights.

120. It must be noted that to bring sanity into this sector, a general assembly meeting of all stakeholders in the communications sector was held at the end of the year 2012.

Chapter 6 : FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY (ARTICLE 11 of the Charter)

121. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights clearly defines the contours of freedom of association and assembly in articles 10 and 11. The second periodic report of Cameroon under the Charter focused on this issue and the legal framework presented in articles 121, 122, 123, 124, 125 and 126 is relevant.

122. It must however be specified that looking at the statistical curve, it is commendable that the practice of freedom of association, which is a fundamental one too, has actually become part of the essential building blocks because a number of associations under the reporting system are getting established on the ground. With regard to associations whose objective is to specifically operate in the area of human rights since 2008, five hundred (500) have actually joined the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, out of which three hundred (300) are operating in the Central region alone.

123. The number of foreign associations increased from 223 in 2008 to 306 in 2011. Concerning congregations and religious denominations which were 79 and 46 respectively in 2008, 128 religious denominations and 47 churches were registered in 2011.

124. The trend of increasing numbers of associations also affected the trade union sector. The number increased from 596 professional unions made up of public service employees in the private sector and five (05) professional unions made up of public service employees in 2005, to 169 employers' associations and 540 workers' unions in 2011, representing a total of 709 trade unions.

They can be broken down into six (06) employers' associations and ten (10) umbrella trade union groups.

125. With regard to political parties, they stood at 274 in 2011 with fourteen (14) of them having representation in the municipal councils and five (05) at the National Assembly.

Chapter 7: THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RESIDENCE, TO LEAVE ANY COUNTRY AND THE RIGHT TO OBTAIN ASYLUM (article 12 of the Charter)

126. Both the preliminary report of Cameroon in paragraphs (174 to 179) and the second periodic report of Cameroon (paragraphs 127 to 132) developed this subject matter comprehensively to highlight its effectiveness in the country. During the period under review, the migration policy pillars of the State remained stable. They are structured around the following axes: safeguarding national integrity and security; the protection of nationals and foreigners in transit or residing in Cameroon; measures aimed at preventing illegal migration in terms of deterrence and security, development and co-development by involving the Diaspora in the development process. This general and multi-dimensional approach is made up of cooperation, partnership and solidarity.

127. The developments below will enable us to focus more on the freedom of movement (Section I) and the right to seek asylum (Section II).

Section I- Freedom of movement

128. Measures were taken to facilitate the movement of both nationals (§1) and foreigners (§2).

§1- Measures relating to nationals

129. To eliminate any obstacles to free movement of citizens, the Government, through a message issued on 05 November, 2010, authorized that systematic controls of vehicles be halted and police barriers on trunk roads removed.

§2- Measures relating to foreign nationals

130. In managing this aspect of its migration policy, Cameroon takes into account community requirements adopted in the CEMAC region. Cameroon is part and parcel of the establishment of a legal framework on the Common emigration-immigration Policy of the CEMAC region. While awaiting the conclusion of this policy, Cameroon is giving effect to the Roadmap adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Union of Central African States (UEAC) in December 2007. The principle of free movement is applied in respect of Community citizens from Chad, Central African Republic and Congo Brazzaville, for a stay below three months. In practice, the entry visa to Cameroon is no longer required for citizens of the above-mentioned countries who are holders of secure and valid national passports. In respect of Equatorial Guineans and Gabonese, while waiting for the entry into force of the CEMAC passport, the principle of reciprocity is applied at the country's border posts; this means that only holders of valid visas are admitted into the country.

131. It must be pointed out that an Agreement was signed between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea on 30 August 2012 in respect of visa exemptions for holders of diplomatic, service and official passports.

132. For foreigners who are not nationals of the CEMAC region, their treatment is subject to the guidelines indicated above on migration policy. It can therefore be said that no mass deportation took place during the period under review.

Section II- Right to obtain asylum

133. The national policy of protecting refugees is divided into four major points as suggested by the Head of State :

- All persons seeking asylum are welcome without any discrimination whatsoever as to nationality, race and political opinion ;
- Once they enter our national territory, assistance is provided on prorata basis within the limits of our possibilities and or with the assistance of the international community ;
- The State complies with all Conventions and other texts on refugee issues to which Cameroon is a Party ;
- Repatriation is implemented only when it is willingly agreed upon by refugees, or they may be integrated into the country or granted nationality status.

134. Cameroon is one of the few countries in the world to have incorporated this right of nationality into a law (Law of 2005 on the status of refugees in Cameroon)

135. On 31 January, 2013, Cameroon received ninety seven thousand and seventy one (97071) refugees, out of which about ninety two thousand and ninety-four (92094) were from the RCA , 1584 from Chad, 1713 from Nigeria, 830 from Rwanda, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Table n°12 : STATISTICS ON REFUGEES AS AT 31 JANUARY 2013

Origin	Total	Assisted by the HCR	Origin	Total	Assisted by the HCR
ALGERIA	2	2	GUINEE CONAKRY	10	10
ANGOLA	12	12	COTE D'IVOIRE	108	108
BURUNDI	67	67	LIBERIA	21	21
BURKINA FASO	1	1	MAURITANIA	5	5
CAMBODIA	5	5	MOROCCO	1	1
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (EAST AND ADAMAOUA)	87,243	87,243	NIGERIA (BANYO)	1,710	1,710
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (YAOUNDE AND DOUALA)	4,851	4,851	NIGERIA (URBAN AREAS)	3	3
CHAD (URBAN AREAS)	1,473	1,473	RWANDA	830	830
CHAD (LANGUI CAMP)	111	111	SOMALIA	1	1
CONGO BRAZZAVILLE	65	65	SOUTH SUDAN	1	1
CONGO DRC	456	456	SUDAN	65	65
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	8	8	SWAZILAND	1	1
ERITREA	5	5	SYRIA	1	1
GABON	3	3	TOGO	10	10
GHANA	1	1	UGANDA	1	1

TOTAL	97,071	97,071
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ASYLUM SEEKERS

Number of cases on the waiting list	TOTAL
	3,098

Source : United Nations High Commission for Refugees

- 136.** The hospitality policy implemented by Cameroon earned the nation the honor of being admitted into the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in 2011. Beyond this recognition, the institutional framework for managing the rights of refugees was reinforced in 2011 per Decree n° 2011/389 of 28 November, 2011 on the organization and functioning of refugee management bodies. These are the Commission for Refugee Eligibility Status and the Refugees Appeals Board provided for by Law n° 2005/006 of 27 July, 2005 on the status of refugees in Cameroon⁶.
- 137.** Cameroon launched the finalization of the establishment of Refugee Management Bodies and the appointment of members on 6 August, 2012. These members swore the oath of office on 24 September, 2012.
- 138.** Since the beginning of the political crisis in the Central African Republic at the end of 2012, we have observed an upsurge in the number of refugees from Central African Republic, particularly since the takeover of power by the Seleka coalition on 24 March, 2013, and up to 27 March 2013, Cameroon had received 1000 Central African refugees and close to 200 ex-military officers of the Central African Armed Forces.

It received assistance from the HCR and the Cameroon Red Cross also received some support from the ICRC.

Chapter 8 : THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Article 13)

- 139.** The period 2008-2011 was enhanced in the area of developments regarding the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs. The most significant developments were reflected in the consolidation of the electoral system (Section I), the continuation of the decentralization process (Section II) and access to the Public Service (Section III).

Section I-- CONSOLIDATION OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

- 140.** The consolidation of the electoral system was achieved through the strengthening of the normative and institutional framework (§1), the provision of guidance to political parties (§2) and the holding of elections (§3).

§1- Normative and institutional framework

- 141.** The period under review was characterized by the adjustment of the normative framework and a change in the institutional framework. Concerning developments which have already been highlighted above on Elections Cameroon, the main body responsible for organizing and managing elections, the focus will now shift to the normative framework which was amended as part of the

⁶ These Committees were made operational in 2012 after the observation on the appointment of its members by Order n°... of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

2008 constitutional review (A), the clear outline of the rules governing the organization of the referendum (B) and the extension of voting rights to Cameroonians abroad (C).

A- Constitutional Review

142. On 14 April, 2008, the National Assembly adopted Law n° 2008/001 amending and supplementing some provisions of Law n° 96/06 of 18 January 1996 on the Constitutional review of 2 June 1972. This law reviewed several aspects of the conduct of elections, particularly the election of the President of the Republic, the conditions for extending or shortening the term of office of parliamentarians and members of the Constitutional Council and the requirements for electing senators.
143. Concerning the election of the President of the Republic, the restriction placed on the limit of the term of office has been removed and now stands at seven (07) years renewable, Laws n° 92/10 of 17 September 1992 and n°97/020 of 09 September 1997 laying down the conditions for elections and the temporary substitution of the President of the Republic of Cameroon were consequently amended by Law n°2011/002 of 6 May, 2011.
144. Furthermore, the management of the vacant position was reviewed and the timeframe for organizing the presidential election extended should the position of President become vacant. The time limit extends from a minimum of twenty (20) days and a maximum of forty (40) days after the vacant position has been declared, to a minimum of twenty (20) days and a maximum period of one hundred and twenty (120) days to enable the elections to be organized effectively in material and practical terms.
145. With regard to the conditions for extending and shortening the term of parliamentarians, the innovative plan was to broaden the scope of reasons leading to the extension or shortening of the term of parliamentarians and the development of longer time limits for the organization of the election of the new Assembly. Thus, it is not only in cases of serious crises as provided for in the previous text, but the new text adds « *when circumstances so require*»⁷. Regarding the time limits, the period has been extended to one hundred and twenty (120) days after the extended or shortened interval has expired instead of sixty days (60) days as indicated in the old text.
146. On the term of the members of the Constitutional Council, whereas it used to be nine (09) years non renewable, it now becomes six (6) years renewable.
147. On the conditions for the election of senators, the Electoral College has been clarified in case the establishment of this institution precedes the one for the Regions. This college will be made up exclusively of municipal councillors⁸.

B- Laying down the procedure for the referendum

148. Law n°2010/003 establishing the procedure for the referendum was adopted on 13 April 2010. It repeals Order n°72/10 of 26 August 1972 instituting the procedure for the referendum. It determines the matters in respect of which the President of the Republic could have recourse to a referendum by broadening the scope of action. It sets the procedure for the form of election,

⁷ The term of parliamentarians elected for the 2007-2012 legislature was extended by a year in 2012. The same applies to municipal councillors.

⁸ It must be indicated that the electoral constituencies now correspond with the administrative constituencies which are the regions, departments and districts. The administrative reorganization of the Republic of Cameroon initiated per Decree n°2008/376 of 12 November, 2008 was completed in 2010 by developing existing districts into municipalities as per Decree n°2010/198 of 16 June 2010.

determines the rules relating to disputes and declares results by taking into account new relevant institutions in these matters.

C- Extending voting rights to Cameroonians living abroad

149. Law n°2011/013 of 13 July 2011 on voting by Cameroonians established or living abroad offers the opportunity for Cameroonians established or resident abroad to exercise their voting right, which will be limited to the presidential election and referendum for Cameroonians in the Diaspora to enable them to be involved in the conduct of public affairs. The effectiveness in exercising this right was made possible by laying down precise modalities for the implementation of Decree n°2011/237 of 08 August 2011 on the modalities for the implementation of the Law of 13 July, 2011 relating to voting by Cameroonians established or living abroad; and Order n°001/DIPL/CAB of 24 August 2011 drawing up lists of diplomatic representations and consular posts in which elections took place during the 2001 presidential election.

§2- Control of political parties

150. In 2011, the number of political parties stood at 274. The funding of political parties was carried out through traditional funding mechanisms and financing electoral campaigns. From 2008 to 2011, in line with the provisions of Articles 6, 7, 8 and 11 of the Law of 19 December, 2000 relating to public funding of political parties and electoral campaigns, a subvention amounting to one billion five hundred million (FCFA1500 000 000) was allocated to political parties represented in the National Assembly and parties which obtained 5% of votes in at least one constituency during the 2007 parliamentary elections.

1/ An amount of 750 000 000 FCFA was allocated proportionally to political parties which took part in the last parliamentary elections of 22 July and 30 September 2007 according to the number of seats secured at the National Assembly as indicated in the following table:

Table n°13: Financing political parties which participated in the parliamentary elections

N° d'ordre	Partis Politiques bénéficiaires	Nombres de sièges obtenus à l'Assemblée Nationale	Montant alloué
1	RDPC	153	637 499 999,998
2	SDF	16	66 666 666,666
3	UNDP	6	24 999 999,999
4	UDC	4	16 666 666,666
5	MP	1	4 166 666,666
TOTAL		180	749 999 999,995

Source : Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINATD)

2/ An installment of FCFA750 000 000 meant for political parties which obtained at least 5% of votes in at least one constituency during the parliamentary elections of 22 July 2007 and the partial elections of 30 September 2007.

Table n°14: Financing political parties after parliamentary election results

N° d'ordre	Partis Politiques bénéficiaires	Nombres de circonscriptions où le parti a obtenu au moins 5% des suffrages exprimés	Montant alloué
1	RDPC	85	335 526 315,789
2	SDF	45	177 631 578,947
3	UNDP	28	110 526 315,789
4	UPC	7	27 631 578,947
5	UDC	4	15 789 473,684
6	ADD	4	15 789 473,684
7	MDR	4	15 789 473,684
8	ANDP	3	11 842 105,263
9	AFP	2	7 894 736,842
10	MP	1	3 947 268,421
11	UPR	1	3 947 368,421
12	MDP	1	3 947 368,421
13	MLDC	1	3 947 368,421
14	FSNC	1	3 947 368,421
15	POPC	1	3 947 368,421
16	MCNC	1	3 947 368,421
17	RCPU	1	3 947 368,421
TOTAL		190	749 999 999,994

Source : MINATD

151. During the presidential election of October 2011, a subsidy of FCFA690 000 000, earmarked for public financing of the electoral campaign was allocated equally to the twenty-three (23) candidates; half of the amount was paid before the election and the other half after the election, i.e. FCFA15 000 000 for the first installment and the same amount for the second installment.

§3- Holding of Elections

152. During the period under review, parliamentary and municipal bye elections were organized (A), as well as the presidential election (B).

A) Parliamentary and Municipal Bye-elections

153. The post-electoral dispute in the 2007 parliamentary and municipal elections led to the organization of bye-elections in electoral constituencies where they had been cancelled. The elections were held on 30 September, 2007, for the parliamentary elections and 26 October, 2008 for the municipal elections. The re-organization of the elections enabled the following configuration to emerge at the National Assembly and in the municipal councils for the period 2007-2012.

Table n°15: Results of the parliamentary and municipal bye-elections of October 2008

1- National Assembly

	Incumbent Members		Alternate members	
	Number	%	Number	%
Women	25	13.89	38	21.11
Men	155	86.11	142	78.89
Total	180	100	180	100

2- Municipal Councils

	Municipal Councillors		Mayors		Deputy Mayors	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Women	1651	15,53	23	6,39	184	20,04
Men	8981	84,47	337	93,61	734	79,96
Total	10632	100	360		918	100

Source : MINATD

B- Presidential election of 9 October 2011

154. The election was preceded by pre-election activities relating to the renewal of the voters' register, the validation of candidates' applications and monitoring of the declaration of results.

1) Pre-election activities

155. During the voters' registration exercise⁹, measures were taken to encourage the participation of citizens in the polls. In this regard, there ensued an exceptional measure for extension taken by the Head of State in 2010 for a temporary reduction in the cost, followed by free distribution of national identity cards for Cameroonians who had attained the voting age¹⁰, until the announcement of the elections on 31 August, 2011. By this date, 7,525,122 persons qualified to vote were actually registered on the electoral lists.

156. Regarding the candidates, in accordance with the provisions of Article 51 (new) paragraph 1 of Law n°2011/002 of 06 May 2011 supra according to which candidates five (5) days have to apply after the announcement of the elections, fifty-one (51) applications were submitted to ELECAM for the presidential election. Only twenty-one (21) were validated by this institution including two women. The rejection of thirty (30) other candidates was based on one or some of the reasons below: failure to present tax clearance certificate; failure on the part of the candidate to get their signature legalized on the nomination paper, failure to show proof of continuous residence in the country for at least twelve months; non compliance with the deadline for the submission of applications of candidates. Some of the rejected applications led to appeals at the Supreme Court sitting in lieu of a Constitutional Court which resulted in the acceptance of two candidates, thus bringing the total number of candidates to twenty-three (23).

2) Election Results

157. At the end of the presidential election, twenty (20) appeals were filed at the Supreme Court by contestants in the presidential election as well as civil society persons, some of whom were declared inadmissible and others for lack of proof. The Supreme Court, sitting as Constitutional Court, announced the results of the presidential election of 9 October 2011 at a solemn hearing held on 21 October, 2011.

158. H.E. Paul BIYA, the CPDM candidate was declared elected as President of the Republic of Cameroon with 77.98% of votes cast¹¹. The ballots cast for each candidate at the national level were presented by the Supreme Court according to regions and departments. The votes of

⁹ The voters' register was opened in August, 2010, and the registration exercise ended on 31st August, 2011.

¹⁰ By Decree, the President of the Republic brought the cost of procuring a national identification card to 2800 frs. Initially scheduled to take place from 3 January to 30 April, 2011, this deadline was extended to 30 August, 2011.

¹¹ He swore the oath of office before the National Assembly on 3 November, 2011.

Cameroonians in the Diaspora were presented country by country (33) and according to polling stations (79).

Section II- DECENTRALISATION PROCESS

159. To enable the population at the grassroots level to actively participate in the conduct of public affairs, the State initiated a decentralization process which made it possible for some Ministerial departments to transfer manpower (§1) and resources (§2) to decentralized local authorities (CTD). To enable these authorities to take up these new responsibilities, elected representatives and local technical officials were trained in the mechanisms of the new system and even some local administrations developed local development plans. At the end of 2010, there were 155 development plans out of 360.

§1) Skills transferred to Decentralized Local Authorities (CTD)

160. The decentralization process made significant progress in 2010 and 2011, with the realization of the first and second generation transfers of skills to the communes and urban communities in at least 21 sectors of activities; these related to the supply of water, provision of health services, education, vocational training, culture, tourism, and agro-pastoral activities including assistance to the poor and needy, construction, equipment, maintenance and management of periodic procurements.

§2) Resources transferred to Decentralized Local Authorities (CTD's)

161. The resources corresponding to skills transferred in 2010 amounted to twenty-three billion, seventy-two million, three hundred and sixty three thousand (CFAF 23. 072. 363. 000) CFAF 12(2), in addition to the overall allocation for Decentralization, amounting to nine billion six hundred and ninety-four million (CFAF 9.694.000.000)¹³ budgeted by the State for the 2010 financial year. For 2011, the amount was twenty-two billion, sixty-five million seven hundred and twenty-one thousand five hundred francs (CFAF 22.065.721.500)¹⁴, allocated to the CTD beneficiaries. In addition to this amount, an overall allocation budgeted by the State for decentralization amounted to seven billion francs (7.000.000.000 FCFA)¹⁵.

1- Training of elected representatives and local technical officials in the mechanisms of the new system of decentralization.

162. A national seminar on skills management and transfer of resources was organized in four (4) stages (Garoua, Yaoundé, Buea and Bafoussam), from 05 to 30 July, 2010. At each stage, the seminar brought together administrative authorities, elected representatives and technical officials of Decentralized Local Authorities (DLAs) at all levels as well as officials of decentralized departments of the Ministry of Finance in the adjoining Regions where the seminar is held.

163. The main theme of the seminar was « Organizing Communal Departments and Managing Skills and Transferred Resources ». The deliberations of the workshop made it possible for the various stakeholders engaged in decentralization to own the legal framework of this public affairs

¹² Representing 35 224 981 Euros.

¹³ Representing 14 800 000 Euros.

¹⁴ Conversion into euro.

¹⁵ idem.

management system, to properly appreciate human resource management, particularly the sharing of tasks and the use of financial resources allocated to communes and urban communities.

164. This national seminar made it possible to create a mechanism which has been in its operational phase since February, 2010. It also assisted in carrying out an evaluation of the initial stages of the decentralization process with the participation of the stakeholders from headquarters departments and local authorities. Relevant documents were distributed to participants at the seminar and they include course documents and guides.

165. Furthermore, it is worth noting that a workshop was also held in Kribi on 5 and 6 May, 2010 for journalists on communication in relation to decentralization. Another seminar-workshop was also held from 12 to 17 December, 2010 in the same locality to acquaint leaders of civil society groups, religious bodies and officials of community radio stations with issues of decentralization.

Section III- ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICE

166. An overview will be provided on conditions of access to the public service (§1) and some recruitment processes (§2).

§1- Overview of conditions of access to the Public Service

167. The Cameroon Public Service is organized into sections, officials, ranks and categories. A public servant is a person who occupies a permanent work position and is an employee in the administrative hierarchy of the State¹⁶. The State also administers another category of public servants. This includes State officials¹⁷ who are divided into categories depending on their level of qualification as indicated in the Labour Code.

Access to positions in the public service is reserved for Cameroonians, without any discrimination whatsoever. For now, there is no quota system for vacancies to be reserved for women and men. However, the implementation of the National Gender Policy Document prepared by the Government with the participation of civil society should culminate in a proper inclusion of Gender in the distribution of posts in the Public Service. Formal gender equality defined by the texts should reflect in actual equality which provides the same opportunities for women and men to gain access to all the benefits to be enjoyed a citizen. In complying with the regulation in force, ten percent (10%) of posts are reserved for the vulnerable group made up of persons with disabilities.

§2-Some information on recruitment mechanisms

168. The traditional recruitment processes (A) and the special recruitment exercise of 25 000 young people B) are mentioned below :

A)- Traditional recruitment mechanisms

169. The statistical information on traditional recruitment mechanisms into the Public Service for 2010 and 2011 are as follows.

Table 16: On Access to the Public Service in 2010

¹⁶ Cf General Statutes of the State Public Service.

¹⁷ They are regulated by the Labour Code and specified texts.

Number	Method of Access	Number of vacancies
1	Competitive Training Examination	1080
2	Direct Access Examination	937
3	Selection Tests	230
4	Vocational Examinations	1067
5	Recruitment into the Advanced Training Schools and Institutes : ENAM, FMSB, IRIC, ENS (Yaoundé, Maroua, Bamili)	5480
Total		8794

Source : MINFOPRA/DDRHE

Table 17: On recruitment as part of capacity strengthening plan and renewal of technical personnel in the trades in 2011

N°	Type of examination	Section	Number
01	Direct Entry	Social Affairs	2535
02	Competition for Scholarships	Demography, Statistics, Physical Education, Sports, Youth , Games	1180
03	Vocational Examination	Public Service Corps	1510
04	Special Competitive Examinations	Education and Financial and Tax Administrations	850
05	Recruitment of Policy-makers	For MINFOPRA	127
06	Recruitment based on HIPC and C2D Funds	For MINSANTE	2481
07	IVAC Recruitment for Technical Education	For MINESEC and MINEFOP	376
08	Annual Recruitment for the Advanced Training Schools and Institutes	State	5775
Total			14 34

Source : MINFOPRA

B- Special Recruitment Exercise of 25 000 young persons into the Public Service

170. Apart from the resumption of contractual activities to different categories, the vast recruitment exercise of 25.000 young Cameroonian graduates into the public service in 2011 is worth mentioning. This recruitment was carried out based on the study of applications of Cameroonians including those living abroad who are at most 40 years old, and holders of any certificate issued by authorities at the primary, secondary, university and vocational authorities. The candidates were exempted from the payment of any examination fees apart from payment of the required amount of stamps. The positions concerned, among others, were: law, medicine, social affairs, agriculture, records and documentation, rural engineering, hotel and catering studies, tourism, social, scientific and technical research, primary, secondary and higher education.

171. At the end of the deadline for submission, 304,130 applications had been submitted. The results are all indicated in the tables below based upon the age group, gender and whether the applicants are physically challenged persons:

Table 18: The Pre-selected candidates on the basis of age range¹⁸

Age range	Number	%
Below 25 years	2702	10.80
25-34 years	15 110	60.41
35-40 years	7200	28.79
Total	25 012	100

Source : MINFOPRA + *Cameroon Tribune* of 14 November 2011

Table 19 : Shortlisted on the basis of gender

Age range	Number	%
Female	11 262	45. 026
Male	13 750	54. 974
Total	25 012	100

Source: MINFOPRA+ *Cameroon Tribune* du 14 November 2011

Table 20: The number of shortlisted persons with disabilities

Handicap	Number	%
Persons without disabilities	24 548	99,792
Handicapped	452	0,208
Total	25 000	100

Source: *Cameroon Tribune* of 14 November 2011

172. Based on Law n°2010/002 of 13 April 2010 on the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities, some civil society organizations claimed a more equitable access to employment for persons with disabilities as part of the recruitment exercise. This action caused an increase in the number of persons with disabilities selected under the special recruitment exercise of 25,000 persons; representing altogether four hundred (400) persons with disabilities, i.e. a percentage of 1. 59923236%.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

Chapter 9 : THE RIGHT TO PROPERTY(ARTICLE 14).

173. The developments contained in the previous report (paragraphs 137-1 and 137-2) are significant. It might be added that the State continued to guarantee the right of the population to acquire property. Thus, within the context of expropriation in the interest of public need and in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 of the Charter, prior compensation was paid to victims of these expropriations. This point is illustrated by expropriations undertaken as part of the following major structuring projects :

- **Construction of the Industrial/Port Complex Project in Kribi:** an amount of CFAF 23 648 766 002 was disbursed as compensation for the victims¹⁹. However, payments were suspended following suspicions of overvaluations. A fact-finding mission was initiated in this effect by the top hierarchy.
- **Construction project of the hydro-electric dam at MEMVE'ELE:** an amount of FCFA 2 930 735 167 was disbursed for the payment of compensation to victims²⁰.
- **Construction project of the hydro-electric power dam at LOM PANGAR:** the sum of CFAF 1 255 162 120 was provided as compensation for the victims.
- **Construction project of the gas plant at Log Baba:** an amount of CFAF 1 311 797 045²¹ was provided for the victims who were dispossessed of their property. This compensation was part of the budget of Rodeo Development Company Limited. The compensation processes are underway.
- **Construction project of the Mini Hydro-electric power plant at Mekin:** An amount of CFAF 3 146 852 432 was disbursed to compensate the victims.

¹⁹ See Decree n° 2010/3312/PM of 30 November 2012 on compensation for persons whose property or assets were expropriated or destroyed as part of the construction of the industrial and port project Complex at Kribi in the Department of the Ocean. The Decree is a follow-up to Decree n° 2010/323 of 14 October 2012 on the categorization of public lands needed for the development of the industrial-port Complex in the Department of the Ocean.

²⁰ See Decree n° 2011/3037/PM of 13 September 2011 on payment of compensation to victims whose property were expropriated or destroyed during the construction of the hydro-electric dam at MEMVE'ELE, MA'AN district, in the NTEM Valley Department ; Decree n° 2011/51/39/PM of 19 December 2011 on compensation to victims whose property were seized or destroyed as part of the construction works of the MEMVE'ELE hydro-electric dam on the east bank of the NTEM river in a location called NYABESSANG, MA'AN district in the NTEM Valley Department. These decrees are a follow-up to Decree n° 2011/278 of 31 August 2011 on the categorization within State lands needed for the construction of a hydro-electric dam at MEMVE'ELE, a plot of land measuring 1680ha, 60a,56ca situated on the west bank of NTEM in a location called NYABESSANG, MA'AN district, in the NTEM Valley Department and also Decree n° 2011/407 of 09 December, 2011 on the categorization within publicly-owned lands needed for the construction of hydro-electric dam at MEMVE'ELE, on a land measuring 3520ha, 81a,79ca situated on the left bank of the NTEM river in a location called NYABESSANG, MA'AN district in the NTEM Valley Department

²¹ See Decree n° 2012/0034/PM of 24 January 2012 on payment of compensation to victims whose property were expropriated or destroyed during the construction of the hydro-electric dam at LOM PANGAR in the Eastern Region. This Decree is a follow-up to Decree n° 2012/034 of 19 January 2012 on the categorization within State lands needed for the construction of a hydro-electric dam at LOM PANGAR.

Chapter 10: IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION (Article 26)

- 174.** Beyond the functional redevelopments already indicated above, the strengthening of financial capacities of the institution came into focus during the period under review. The State subvention for the CNDHL budget increased from CFAF 500 million in 2008 to 700 million 2011, representing an upward adjustment of 40%. It is worth noting that in 2006, the CNDHL further benefitted from a special budgetary allocation of twenty-four million seven hundred and fifty thousand (FCFA 24 750 000) for the printing of its annual activity reports. During the 2010 financial year, a budget allocation of five hundred million (CFAF 500 000 000) for recurrent expenses came to add to an amount of one hundred million (CFAF 100 000 000), representing counterpart funds provided to the CNDHL for its human rights education programme.
- 175.** In the light of this development, the State subvention accounts for an average of 42% of the CNDHL budget²². Though the amount is substantial, it still does not allow CNDHL to finance all the programmes it has outlined.

CONCLUSION OF PART THREE

- 176.** In the area of civil rights protection, it can be observed that the judicial response to crime bears testimony to the determination of the Government to protect the physical integrity of persons living within the jurisdiction of the State. The application of the rule according to which freedom is the principle and detention the exception, can be seen in the proportion of persons discharged following petitions by persons on remand and administrative detainees and by the number of releases and acquittals. The reality of the continued fight against impunity among personnel responsible for law enforcement finds concrete expression in both disciplinary and legal sanctions.
- 177.** It however appears that the judicial map does not correspond with the administrative system on which it is modeled. Similarly, the budget allocated for the Ministry of Justice and the salaries of the main actors in the judicial system do not enhance effective administration of justice. It is however important to indicate the efforts made to guarantee access to justice by all citizens, protect the rights of the defense and promote an effective justice system.
- 178.** The protection of the right to property is implemented within the context of expropriations that occurred during the implementation of major structuring projects.
- 179.** Furthermore, the Government was very much involved in the promotion of individual rights from 2008 to 2011, in particular, freedom of movement. Freedom of expression and communication improved significantly especially in the area of consolidating the legal framework

²² The budget of the CNDHL increased from FCFA 1 216 050 000 (one billion two hundred and sixteen million fifty thousand in 2008 to FCFA 1 854 353 591 (one billion eight hundred and fifty four million three hundred and fifty-three thousand five hundred and ninety-one) in 2009 to FCFA 1 649 000 000 (one billion six hundred and forty-nine million) in 2010 then..

and ensuring sustainability of Government support by holding the private media accountable, even though controlling the behaviour of stakeholders is a major challenge to overcome.

PART FOUR:
IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL RIGHTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
CHARTER

180. This part reports on the implementation of the right to decent work (Chapter 1), the right to health (Chapter 2), the right to education (Chapter 3), and the right to culture (Chapter 4). It also consists of developments concerning the right to an adequate standard of living, which though not enshrined in the Charter, has been established by the jurisprudence of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Moreover, the measures taken towards family protection have been outlined (Chapter 5), as well as the specific rights of women (Chapter 6), of children (Chapter 7), of older persons (Chapter 8), and persons living with disabilities (Chapter 9).

Chapter 1: THE RIGHT TO DECENT WORK (ARTICLE 15 OF THE CHARTER)

181. The developments outline measures taken to ensure the right to decent employment (Section I), the right to work under equitable and satisfactory conditions (Section II) and the right to social security (Section III).

Section I: THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO DECENT EMPLOYMENT

182. The Government had outlined a strategy for employment focused on the following three broad guidelines: increase in the offer of employment (§1), addressing demand for employment (§2); and enhancing the efficiency of the employment market (§3).

§1- Activities carried out to improve the offer of employment

183. From 2008 to 2011, a number of structural initiatives were taken (A). They should make it possible to assess or anticipate results in the attempt to address the unemployment problem through employment creation (B).

A) Structural Initiatives

184. The structural initiatives centred on the preparation of a national employment policy, a strategy for the promotion of « high labour intensive methods » within the context of investment projects, the preparation of a plan for the promotion of Cameroonian personnel in the major projects, **the preparation of a list of employment-skills**, outlining a national employability strategy, reforms pertaining to the legal and institutional framework governing temporary employment agencies, the creation of a desk at the Ministry for small and medium-scale industries, social economy, arts and crafts, a Unit for transitions from informal sector to the formal sector. Ownership by of the Global Jobs Pact by Cameroon in anticipation of establishing a National Jobs Pact. It is earmarked to establish a general framework of incentives and programme rationalization for the promotion of employment through the establishment of a National Employment Council.

B) Employment creation

185. Cameroon does not yet have very reliable tools to indicate the actual unemployment rate (or a very probable figure) or a comprehensive picture of the situation of employment creation at a given time. However, it is possible to indicate the status of developments in terms of employment generation.

186. Indicators of the employment market show an increase in employment in the informal sector and an upsurge in unemployment²³, as a result of the global economic crisis with wide disparities between men and women, in view of the fact that the latter find more work in the informal sector²⁴. This shortfall in employment is highly correlated to the low investment in human resources which does not always correspond to production requirements and competitiveness of the economy because vocational training is not given adequate resources to enable it to be adapted to the required competitiveness of the economy.

Thus, in 2010, employment creation listed is presented as follows:

Table 21 : Employment creation

TYPES OF JOBS CREATED	SECTORS / INSTITUTIONS				TOTAL
	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	NEF	PIAASI	
Salaried	7461	7650	25 835		40 946
Self-employment			2 487	1225	3712
Induced				3375	3375
TOTAL	7461	7650	28322	4600	48 033

Source : MINEFOP

187. The National Employment Fund (NEF) therefore integrated 28,322 persons, bringing the total number of persons in working life to more than 85 000 during the period under review. The Integrated Support Programme for Informal Service Actors (PIAASI), which changed into Support Fund for Stakeholders of the Informal Sector Operators in 2008, provided financial support to project developers of income generating projects, which create direct and indirect employment estimated at 9 960 in 2008 and 4600 in 2010.

188. On the whole, at least 47933 jobs were created in 2010. The number of recruitments into the public service through **the competitive selection process stands at 3314 as indicated above, with 10% of the positions reserved for vulnerable persons, in particular for people with disabilities²⁵ and through the outcome of activities of the various youth integration programmes. Under the PAJER-U and PIFMAS, 70 young persons were integrated as against 53 in 2007 and 15 in 2008. It must be recalled that in 2011, 25 000 young persons were recruited into the public service.**

189. Furthermore, apart from employment creation, accompanying measures relating to job seekers and project developers also need to be taken into consideration. In this regard, from 2008 to

²³ According the ILO, unemployment continued to worsen, thus reaching 11.9% in 2009, as against 8.2% in 2007, while underemployment, which is widespread was around 75.8% of overall employment. Similarly, the third survey on households reveals that the unemployment rate is quite high in urban centres such as Douala (20%) and Yaoundé (21%).

²⁴ The rate was 95.5% in 2009.

²⁵ **An upsurge of 1.5% was recorded in personnel entering the public service within six months, representing 199 158 personnel in June 2010 as against 196 126 in January 2010. Progress report and economic, social and financial prospects of the nation in the 2010 financial year, Ministry of Finance, January 2011 p.10.**

2010, the NEF received and gave orientation to 69805 persons, and searched for 51 398 jobs in businesses. It trained 16552 job seekers and provided funding for 11 497 micro-project directors. This funding creates self-employed jobs, which also create new jobs.

190. As far as the PIAASI is concerned, apart from the fact that the amount of financing increased to 800 million CFAF in 2010, there was a net improvement in the recovery of micro-credits as repayments were due after 11 months of deferred payments. Thus, at the end of 2010, the PIAASI had already recovered more than FCFA 360 million as against 127 692 831 in 2008.

§2- Meeting the demand for employment

191. Meeting the demand for employment is implemented through adaptation of the vocational training base to the requirements of the employment market, the rehabilitation of vocational training institutions, the quality control of services of vocational training institutions, the involvement and empowerment of specialized vocational outfits in the development of vocational training through partnership agreements.

192. On the adaptation of the reference systems, the overall training programmes provided by the public and private training institutions were estimated to be 223 special courses in 2010. The latter courses are mostly (70%) dispensed in the French language. Only 17% of them are in English and 13% are dispensed in both English and French. The tertiary is predominant (23% of the courses are in English and 48% in French) while the primary level is characterized by a low percentage of (3%). In view of this, 25 qualifying training sectors were identified and 15 reference systems effectively prepared and implemented in 2010, with nine (09) being in the ICT sector and six (06) in the manual or industrial trades.

193. The rehabilitation of vocational training institutions touched on the SAR/SM and equipping the public vocational training centres. On control, 379 private vocational training centres were given accreditation in 2010, and they organized programmes for about 26 000 young persons.

194. The involvement and empowerment of specialized professional circles in the development of vocational education is carried out through partnership agreements or promoting work-based training. Thus, a cooperation agreement was signed on 20 October 2010 between the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Education (MINEFOP) and the National Social Security Fund (CNPS), while a meeting for exchange of views and dialogue with more than 35 business institutions was organized in 2010 in Douala. This action is however beset with difficulties linked mainly to how adequate resources can be mobilized to finance the initiatives

§3- Improvement in the efficiency of the employment market

195. This issue involved the improvement of transparency in the employment market. The institutions working in this domain such as the National Observatory on Employment and Vocational Training (ONEFOP) mobilized themselves on the employment market. In 2010, this Institution had 10 heads of regional branches, 58 departmental focal points and more than 400 focal points in business establishments. It was also able to create IT databases on specific indicators regarding the country's labour market with assistance from the ILO-based Support Project for the Promotion of Employment and Poverty Reduction (APERP).

196. For its part, the NEF, continued with its national networking by opening regional offices in N'Gaoundéré, Douala (Bassa) and Bamenda. This institution now has nine (09) regional offices

(Yaoundé, Douala, Maroua, Bafoussam, Bertoua, Ebolowa, Limbé, N’Gaoundéré and Bamenda) and a local branch (Bassa-Douala). Labour exchange was made operational in August 2011 with the establishment of an employment portal and vocational training at the following website www.fnecm.org. The Fund is considering the establishment of an information and business promotion centre for the youth.

197. Furthermore, a data file on national skills was prepared with the support of GIP International, a consortium operating for the European Union member countries under the project named **Partnership project for the management of labour migration**.
198. Moreover, the data files on private placement organizations and foreign workers were updated. In this regard, a list compiled in 2010 identified 84 temporary workers’ recruitment agencies, 18 private recruitment **agencies and offices** with valid licences²⁶, as well as 2949 foreign workers legally registered and operating their businesses in Cameroun.
199. In the same vein, a **Recruitment Monitoring Committee of the Major Labour Intensive Projects** was established in January, 2010, with the aim of serving as a unifying framework for measures to upgrade nationals for their orientation or integration into industries, trades and skills required by project managers who are partners in the structuring projects. The activities carried out under this scheme enabled an inventory of major projects to be drawn up, including required skills.

Table 22 below presents an estimate according to types of structuring projects and the employment potential of these projects on take-off.

N°	TYPES OF PROJECTS	EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL
1	Hydroelectric dams	45000
2	Gas plants	1100
3	Thermal Plants	280
4	Industrial Projects	7146
5	Mining Projects	47000
6	Port and Harbours Projects	26000
	TOTAL	126526

Source : Ministry of Employment and Vocational Education (MINEFOP)

Section II : The right to fair and favourable labour conditions

200. The guarantee of the right to fair and favourable labour conditions was implemented through the improvement of the working environment (§1) facilitation of the defence of professional interests (§2). The agitations as far as this theme is concerned were however expressed by exercising the right to strike (§3).

§1-Improving the working environment

201. Within the context of exercising greater control over data for the adjustment of policies in this sector, the National Labour Observatory (ONT) was established (A). Moreover, social dialogue

²⁶ 43 private recruitment companies were approved in 2010 while 6 regional offices were established.

was pursued (B) as well as the settlement of labour disputes (C) and measures were taken to guarantee the right to occupational health and safety (D).

A- Establishment of the National Labour Observatory (ONT)

- 202.** Following a resolution of the National Labour Consultative Committee adopted on 16 September 2009, at its 13th session, the ONT was established by Order of the Prime Minister on 11 October, 2010. The mandate of this institution consists of producing actual figures and data on occupational health and safety, social security, social dialogue and labour relations.
- 203.** At the organizational level, the ONT has a Tripartite Committee responsible for outlining the major priorities and a Permanent Secretariat comprising four Departments, namely :
- Occupational accidents and diseases,
 - Social security,
 - Monitoring the social climate and general affairs.

The ONT also has internal sections and regional branches.

B- Continuation of social dialogue

- 204.** During the period under review, social dialogue was used as an approach in managing strike actions (1). It was also deployed through preventive mechanism by way of negotiations and review of collective bargaining agreements (2), and a curative mechanism by way of improving the social climate in the business enterprises (3).

1- Managing strike actions

- 205.** From 2008 to 2012, workers exercised their right to strike on the initiative of professional or workers' unions. For example, the following may be mentioned :
- The strike by part-time workers at the University of Douala who claimed payment of salaries and the confirmation of their appointment as permanent workers,
 - The strike by ALUCAM employees who embarked on a strike to claim harmonization of transport-related allowances ;
 - The cessation of work by journalists in the private media who fought for the decriminalization of press offences and the implementation of the collective bargaining agreement between journalists and professionals of allied trades in Social Communication, etc.
- 206.** Furthermore, notification of strike actions were observed in different areas: particularly one may recall the following: the one by BETSA workers, a sub-contracting firm of AES-SONEL, who were claiming six months of unpaid salary arrears, long service awards; the strike action by workers of the Compagnie Forestière de l'Est, who agitated for long service awards and the strike action by urban transport carriers, etc.
- 207.** The management of these strike actions was by way of negotiations with the aim of protecting the interests of the various stakeholders. In 2012, the MINTSS resolved about twenty strike actions and work stoppages (20), as a result of the setting up of a barometer system of the underlying social climate by a watchdog unit and permanent contacts were maintained with the highly representative trade unions.

3) Negotiation or review of collective bargaining agreements

208. Social dialogue was also consolidated through negotiation or review of some collective bargaining agreements in force. These were signed in 2009 for the following sectors: journalism and related activities, polygraphic industries; city and inter-city transport operators, banks and financial institutions and first line hospitals. In 2010, several national collective bargaining agreements and business agreements were negotiated and reviewed. This applies to the Orange-Cameroon Company Agreement, the Ports and Harbours National Collective Bargaining Agreement, Seagoing, Petroleum Products Storage and Distributors' Organizations, Insurance and Maritime Transport Sector, Freight Forwarders and Allied Transport Sector Operators' Agreements.

In 2012, several collective bargaining agreements were negotiated or reviewed. These agreements are in respect of SITRAFER, Guinness, processing companies, Trade, the National Technical Experts' Association, Cargo Handling Companies and Cam-Iron. The unions were closely associated with these negotiations. Thus, the Tripartite Mechanism is a reality; Cameroon ratified the ILO Convention N° 98 on the Right of Association and Collective Bargaining Convention in 1962.

3) Improving the social climate

209. Improvement of the social climate was undertaken when the Government and social partners set up Ad hoc tripartite committees in industries in order to address workers' problems. Seven (07) large-scale companies at the national level were involved in this action in 2009 and 2010²⁷.

C- Settlement of labour disputes

210. Moreover, there were 1165 cases in respect of retrenchment of workers. To minimize cases of dismissals in industries, the Minister of Labour instituted the consolidation of social dialogue. Furthermore, the rights of workers are protected in Cameroon and the MINTSS strongly ensures compliance. A series of measures have been taken in this regard. In actual fact, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare uses this leverage (social dialogue) to defend workers' rights. The notion of tripartite constituents in the ILO is a reality, where the unions, employers and the Government (MINTSS) are constantly involved in discussions to resolve labour-related issues and the rights of workers.

211. Furthermore, labour inspectors are charged with the enforcement of texts in force in respect of such matters. In this regard, Convention N° 81 on labour inspection has been ratified by Cameroon. Besides, the Labour Code of Cameroon has provided for a general labour inspection mechanism. The labour inspectors work under the authority of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. This Ministry has a Department of Labour Relations, established by Presidential Decree N° **2012/558 of 27 November 2012**²⁸. Its role is to manage relations between employers and workers when the latter are threatened or neglected. The labour inspectors have the opportunity

²⁷ **In 2009, the business enterprises involved were the following:** CONFINEST (Compagnie financière de l'estuaire); Amity Bank; Camerounaise des Eaux (CDE) or Cameroon Water Utilities Company; CAMPOST (*Cameroon Postal Services*); HEVECAM. In 2010, the following committees were set up : the **Ad hoc Memorandum of Understanding Committee on the Review of the Social Aspect of the National Railway Company Concessional Agreement, the Ad hoc Social Dialogue Improvement Committee of the National Social Security Fund and the Ad hoc Committee for Social Dialogue Improvement of the Industrial Shipyard of Cameroon (CNIC), to consider the possibility of merging the Industrial Union of Cameroon and CNIC.**

²⁸ . This was the Decree on the organization of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

to exercise control in the businesses on a daily basis in order to ascertain the labour conditions on the ground and oversee the relations between employers and workers. The labour code and the criminal code penalize offending employers who prevent the labour inspectors from carrying out their official duties (cf. Articles 169, 170, 171, and 172 of the labour code).

212. The heads of labour inspection constituencies submit quarterly activity reports (Regional and Departmental Labour Delegations of the Ministry of Labour) to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare including their annual inspection reports. It must be noted that the enforcement of ILO Convention N°81 is making steady progress though the entire inspection system is still confronted with problems in the area of human, financial and material resources etc...

213. The review of the Labour Code in June, 2012 is aimed at further protecting and promoting the rights of workers and to strengthen the powers of the labour inspector. Incidentally, in case of unwarranted or regular dismissal, the rights of workers are taken into account and settled quickly.

D- Guarantee of health and social security

214. Guarantee of work and social security was characterized by the validation of the national labour safety and health policy by the National Health and Labour Safety Committee (CNSST). Its objective is to ensure the safety and occupational health of workers through preventive measures, by minimizing the risk factors inherent in labour activities. This document falls within the scope of promoting a decent, reliable and clean working environment.

215. Thereafter Decree n°049/MINTSS/CAB of 6 October 2009 established the tabular list of occupational diseases covered by compensation, the timelines during which the insured person or the employer will be held accountable and the type of work likely to cause the diseases. This text brings the number of occupational diseases for which compensation can be paid from 44 to 99. It takes into account new working procedures, patterns and schedules, the advent of new trades, the emergence of new diseases closely related to new working procedures and methods. The text of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, signed on the advice of the CNSST, makes it possible for adequate compensation to be paid by the National Social Security Fund (CNPS) for occupational diseases

216. On human resources, the State continued to issue approvals to occupational health practitioners. Thus, in 2008, four (04) medical practitioners and two (02) occupational health medical professionals were certified while 26 diagnostic and care agreements were signed.

217. In 2010, an inspection of one hundred and fifty-eight (158) business concerns in the Eastern, Littoral and Central Regions made it possible to assess the implementation of the regulation on occupational health and safety. Thus, 50 enterprises did not have occupational Health and Safety Committees (CHST), which situation complicates the management of health and safety issues in these enterprises. Formal notices and warnings were issued to them to comply with the regulation. However, a genuine desire to comply with the regulation was noted. Out of the one hundred and fifty-eight (158) business concerns visited, one hundred (100) had complied with the standards, with the exception of the non-existence of CHSTs as indicated above. Eight (08) other business concerns were not complying with the standards. Regarding occupational diseases, twenty (20) recurrent diseases had been redefined and considered as occupational health diseases by Order n°049/MINTSS/CAB of 6 October 2009 mentioned above. In 2011, 604 inspection visits were carried out with a total of 1988 offence reports being issued, which

means that 25 438 workers were involved. Furthermore, from these inspections, it emerged that 422 work-related accidents had been reported with 12 of them being deadly ones. A significant decline had been observed as compared to previous statistics where the number of deaths could go as far as 50 out of 1555 reported cases.

§2- Facilitating the defence of professional interests

- 218.** Facilitating the defence of professional interests was carried out through the registration of new labour unions (A) and the protection of staff union leaders (B).

A-Registration of new labour unions

- 219.** From 2008 to 2011, new labour unions and federations were registered, bringing a significant increase in the number of labour unions in the country. In 2011, there were 169 employers' organizations and 540 workers' unions, bringing the total number of officially registered unions to 709. They comprise six (6) employers' associations and ten (10) trade union federations. Beyond these labour-related claims relating to the high cost of living and protection of the rights of workers, the labour unions committed themselves to the promotion of social dialogue with both the State and the private partners.

B- Protection of staff union leaders

- 220.** Elections of staff union leaders were held regularly all over the country. After the elections of 14 January, 2009, the number of staff leaders came to 8197. The number increased to 8297 at the end of the elections which took place from 1st February to 30 April 2011.
- 221.** The most significant protection mechanism on staff union leadership is that any action is subject to authorization by the labour inspector. In 2009, 413 applications for authorization to dismiss staff union leaders were received. At the end of the investigations, only 12 cases were approved and this measure helped in safeguarding 401 employment contracts. In 2010, out of 71 requests for authorization from employers for the retrenchment of workers, 66 of them were rejected for lack of evidence. Two dismissals were authorized for loss of confidence and assault of the employers in 2011.

Section III : RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- 222.** Paragraphs 160, 161, 162 and subsequent ones of the previous report on reform of the social security by the Government are relevant. In this context, apart from the realization of the brainstorming on reform of the social security scheme (§1), the actions taken between 2008 and 2011, to guarantee the right to social security touched on health risk-sharing (§2) and payment of social protection benefits (§3).

§1 : Completion of works of the task force on modernization of the social security scheme

- 223.** As indicated in the previous report, (paragraphs 189 to 197-2), the strategy for the social security reform had been validated in December 1999, and a task force set up. In February 2009, the task force on the modernization of the social security sector completed its work by proposing the following texts :

- The draft bill on social security ;
- The draft bill on the overall framework for the establishment, organization and functioning of the social security mutual health insurance schemes ;
- The draft bill laying down the general framework for health-insurance ;
- The draft decree on the organization and functioning of the National Health Insurance Fund ;
- The draft decree on the organization and operationalization of the National Social Security Fund ;
- The draft decree on the organization and operationalization of the National Fund for Public Servants.

224. It must be noted that the brainstorming on the modernization of the social security scheme in Cameroon was structured around the fundamental principles of consolidating the gains and extending the social security to cover more persons and a broad range of activities.

225. Concerning the personal scope of application, the sections of the population not previously covered by the social security scheme, should in the long run, benefit from the social insurance, particularly for workers in the informal sector, workers operating small-scale enterprises, self-employed workers, the liberal professions, self-employed artisans, commercial motor-taxis, poultry farmers and herdsmen when the voluntary insurance scheme is institutionalized.

226. On the scope of activities, new services would be provided to the population of Cameroon, just like the social health insurance system when the national health insurance scheme is established, organized and made operational.

§2 : The Mutual Health Insurance Scheme

227. The reflection on the mutual health insurance scheme continued with the establishment of the mutual health schemes, the modernization of the legal and institutional architecture, the ultimate objective being to establish one mutual health insurance for every health district. Moreover, on 30 September 2010, the State and the Health, Fire, Miscellaneous Accident Risks and Social Insurance Company (SAMIRIS), signed the SANTEPHONE Project Partnership Agreement. It applies to health insurance covering hospital expenses of its members while they are on admission in hospitals, the main administrative and financial manager being the CNPS. The project which is intended to cover all segments of society will become operational immediately discussions with the various partners are completed. The purpose of this partnership is to manage the issue of hospital expenses of the population through the SANTEPHONE system when beneficiaries are hospitalized. Besides its involvement in the establishment of the new health insurance product, the CNPS continued to play its core roles.

§3 : Regular payment of contributions

228. From 2008 to 2011, the CNPS continued as usual to honour its obligation of paying contributions (C) though the membership has increased (A). The results achieved were in the area of recovery of contributions from workers (B). However, the regular payment did not prevent disputes from arising (D).

A) Increase in the membership of the social security scheme

229. The number of insured persons under the CNPS increased from 500 565 in December 2009 to 524 830 in December, 2010, then to 542 061 in 2011 and 2012.

B) The pre-requisite of collecting social security contributions

230. From 2008 to 2011, the collection of social security contributions grew considerably. In this regard, an amount of CFAF 92 200 000 000 was collected in 2011 as against FCFA 89 300 000 000 in 2010, FCFA 76 633 084 364 in 2009 and CFAF 72 362 474 787 in 2008.

C) Social Security contributions

231. Under the social security services, the CNPS made payments as presented in the following table :

Table 23: Status of payments of social welfare benefits
Amount in CFAF

AREAS COVERED	2008	2009	2010	2011
Family benefits	39 920 000 000	6 716 375 603	7 066 108 641	6 898 979 022
Occupational hazards	2 713 000 000	2 910 786 278	3 174 084 367	2 586 861 230
Old age, disability and death	39 920 000 000	41 381 460 985	49 946 514 524	52 225 215 703
<i>Health and social welfare</i>		1 610 589 485	1 516 000 000	
<i>Health care facilities</i>		4 788 590 431	5 400 000 000	
TOTAL		57 407 802 782	63 931 797 249	63 711 055 955

Source : CNPS Activity Report

D) Disputes under the social security scheme

232. It should be noted that in 2011, 13 246 beneficiaries as well as 31 514 children under the insurance scheme were suspended as a result of various fraudulent practices leading to the loss of CFAF 1 455 518 965²⁹, out of which an amount of FCFA 206 137 475³⁰ has already been recovered by the CNPS.

233. In 2010, the beneficiaries forwarded 136 petitions to the Appeals Committee complaining of refusal of the CNPS to honour their claims under the social welfare benefits. Ruling on these petitions, the Committee considered 105 decisions to be **inadmissible**, 103 cases on grounds of lapse of time in seeking redress and two (2) because of the petitioners' lack of standing.

234. On the merits and in the area of occupational accidents, it ruled in favour of fifteen (15) and dismissed four (4) for failure to establish the occupational nature of the accident. With regard to the occupational diseases, it dismissed two (2) claims for benefits on the premise that the above-mentioned diseases were not on the list of occupational diseases and suspended four (4) cases for lack of supplementary information.

235. In 2011, 207 petitions were presented by insured members to the Appeals Committee to contest decisions relating to dismissal of claims they had filed. Out of the 207 petitions, the Committee considered eighty-two (82), ruled on seventy-two (72) and suspended 10 for lack of supplementary information.

Chapter 2 : THE RIGHT TO HEALTH (ARTICLE 16 OF THE CHARTER)

236. After presenting the 2nd periodic report of Cameroon in 2010 and as part of the health promotion mission as laid down in Article 16 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples'

²⁹ Soit 2222166 euros

³⁰ Soit 314713 euros

Rights, the government of Cameroon focused on ensuring greater visibility in the implementation of this right.

237. Thus, the right to health care for all citizens which is fundamental, essential and indispensable for the enjoyment of other individual rights was made the highest priority of the government. The government, in fulfillment of its obligation to provide the population with appropriate and affordable health care, implemented the Health Sector Strategy (HSS) with the aim of contributing to poverty alleviation by improving the health and social conditions of the population of Cameroon. The key objective of this strategy is to ensure the development of all health districts to enable them to effectively contribute to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The specific objectives of this strategy are that by 2015, Cameroon will:

- Ensure that 80% of the existing 187 health districts attain at least the consolidation phase of development of a health district ;
- Ensure that all health facilities attain strategic and intermediate levels to fully play their supporting and guiding role ;
- Reduce the morbidity problem by 1/3 among the poor and vulnerable population ;
- Reduce infant mortality by 2/3 among children below 5 years;
- Reduce maternal mortality by 2/5.

238. To achieve all these objectives in concrete terms, resource mobilization (Section I) made it possible to focus the action on four priority areas. This applies to the health of the mother, the child and the teenager (Section II), stemming diseases and promoting health (Section III) and finally the development of the Health District (Section IV).

Section I: MOBILIZING RESOURCES FOR ACTION

239. The resources can be broken down into budgetary allocation and mobilization of human resources.

240. The budget allocated to the Ministry of Health was 113.33 billion CFAF in 2009, representing an increase of 23.7% as against 2008. In 2010, it was adjusted upwards to 123 billion, before sliding back to the same amount in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

241. With regard to human resources, the overall human resource capacity of the health sector increased from 15 720 in 2009 to 30.000 in 2010, then to 38.207 in 2011. About 66% are in the public sub-sector and 34% in the private sub-sector. For the private sub-sector, 55% of all the staff are in faith-based health facilities. Out of 38.207 personnel in the health sector, there are 21,484 women, representing 56% with an average age of 38 years as against 16,723 men, or 44% with an average age of 41 years.

242. The staff distribution all over the country indicates that the Central, Littoral and Western regions are the best resourced in terms of capacity, accounting for 24%, 18%, and 13% respectively. This represents 55% of the entire staff strength for 42% of the national population. Adamaoua has 1 1198, the Central region 9 295, the Eastern region 1 443, the Far North 3 728, Littoral 6 938, the Northern region 10606, the North-West 3 847 and the South-West 3679.

Section II: MATERNAL, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH

243. With regard to this area, and generally-speaking, the authorities of Cameroon, in fulfillment of their commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and to the specific goals of improving maternal, child and adolescent health, have remained steadfast to the health policy as highlighted in paragraphs 216, 217 et seq. of the previous report. In actual fact, the authorities strengthened the process of managing health problems ; immunization coverage (§1), launched the CARMMA operation (§2), developed and improved adolescent health (§3), and ensured the extension of integrated health care for childhood diseases to all parts of the country (§4)

§1- Improvement of immunization coverage : Free vaccination

244. The general objective of the World Health Organization's (WHO) strategic plan for the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) 2006-2015 is to reduce mortality, morbidity and disabilities from preventable diseases through vaccination by :

- Strengthening the immunization programme focused on district health in order to improve access and use of immunization services ;
- Speeding up efforts aimed at eradicating poliomyelitis, controlling measles and yellow fever and eliminating neo-natal tetanus ;
- Improving the management and safety of vaccines.

245. In 2011, two weeks of Child and Maternal Health and Nutrition (SASNIM) actions coupled with the first African Immunization Week (SAV) enabled Vitamin A supplements to be supplied to 5 547 754 children aged between 06 and 59 months , 78 175 women eight weeks after actual delivery and to de-worm 2 999 732 children between 12 and 59 months.

Table 24 :Improving immunization coverage for children between 5 and 11 months

INDICATORS	Base Line :	Target :
Proportion/number of Health Districts with a coverage higher or equal to 80%	0.0	80.0
Immunization coverage rate for measles	78.0	90.0
Immunization coverage for anti-tetanus vaccine (TT) 2+	53.0	80.0
Mortality rate of children under 5 years	144.0	75.6
Infant mortality rate	74.0	80.0
174 HD had a loss rate of < 5% in 2011 for DTC-HepB+Hib		
Loss rate in DTC-HCP-Hib	0.0	0.0

Source : Health Information Units (CIS) of the MINSANTE

§2- Improvement of maternal health through the Campaign for Accelerating Reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality (CARMMA)

246. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Health, the CARMMA is a strategic instrument for all stakeholders engaged in the improvement of maternal and neo-natal care. The issue is for

the authorities of Cameroon to give an impetus to measures already taken and implemented within the framework of the National Reproductive Programme for Reducing Mortality.

247. Three delays were identified as being the underlying factors for maternal mortality; delays in deciding to seek health care; delays in organizing transportation to a health facility and delays in providing healthcare in health facilities. To address these delays and promote the campaign to accelerate the reduction in maternal mortality launched in Africa (CARMMA) in May 2010, the Cameroonian authorities provided the Health Centres with Caesarian section and child delivery kits.

248. However, the major difficulties are still perceptible; they relate to lack of qualitative and quantitative human resources in reproductive health, unequal access to quality health care between the rural and urban centres. However, under the CARMMA programme, some activities have been undertaken and some results achieved particularly in the training of trainers for Midwifery Training Schools, the actual takeoff of eight (8) midwifery schools.

Table 25: Improvement of maternal health under the CARMMA programme (Mid-term review)

INDICATORS	Base Line :	Target :
% of HIV-positive pregnant women receiving ARV prophylaxis	9,0	52,0
% of women received in Post partum	60,0	100,0
Proportion of assisted deliveries by a skilled health attendant	59,0	100,0
Proportion of repaired obstetrical fistula cases	0,0	90,0
Proportion of women having had 4 CPNR	65,0	85,0
Proportion of obstetrical complications handled (anaemia, malaria, pre-eclampsia/eclampsia)	24,0	51,0
Rate of Caesarian sections	22,4	19,3
Rate of PMTCT coverage	20,0	80,0
Modern contraceptive prevalence rate	45,0	0,0

❖ Source : Health Information Unit (CIS) of MINSANTE

§3- Development of adolescent health

249. The authorities continued to carry out educational (A) and prevention programmes on the use and consumption of alcohol (B), measures outlined for the Health Sector Strategy.

A- Health Education

250. As 10% of adolescents in Cameroun are affected by early pregnancies and infected with sexually transmissible diseases, a programme has been outlined and implemented in educational institutions, particularly in schools, colleges and high schools with the aim of sensitizing teenagers.

B- Prevention of drug and alcohol use

251. An observation has been made to the effect that mental health-related problems among teenagers in Cameroon are to a large extent due to the use of alcohol, drugs and other psychotropic substances. In this regard, a Decree n°2011/336/ of 13 October, 2011 was issued on the regulation of harmful and/or dangerous substances, including other related measures in support of the department responsible for combating drug addiction.

§4) Expansion of integrated health care for childhood diseases all over the nation

252. In this area of intervention, measures outlined in the Health Sector Strategy in the previous report (paragraphs 218-219) are still relevant. The efforts made with the aim of ensuring improved health care for children were sustained. These measures are focused mainly and essentially on training of service providers (A), promoting improved feeding of children (B), vaccination coverage (C), reducing infant mortality (D).

A- Training of service providers

253. The training of service providers was one of the selected priorities. These training sessions in the area of Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) targeted supervisors, trainers and community health promoters, etc. Thus, in 2011, 180 supervisors were trained in monitoring techniques and facilitation of the IMCI; 20 facilitators were trained and 45 community relay training programmes have been implemented.

B- Improvement in the feeding of children under five (05) years

254. Two important measures were taken. These are the promotion of breastfeeding by mothers and food fortification. That was the culmination of a process which started in 2008: 40% of children suffer from Vitamin A deficiency, 68% from iron deficiency and 62% from stunted growth. To address this concern, the Government initiated an action towards food fortification in order to stem micro-nutrient deficiencies. The action focused on the prevention of under-feeding among children which represents between 48 and 60 % of food fortification remedy distributed to children under five (5) years. This was in respect of fortification in vitamin A, refined vegetable oils, zinc, vitamin B12, folic acid and wheat flour to address the problem of stunted growth.

C- Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).

255. With regard to free sensitization campaigns across the entire country, this programme was able to achieve satisfactory coverage rates of 81.10% for penta 3 and 75.37% for immunization against measles.

256. In spite of all these efforts made by the State to supply these inputs, in almost all the health facilities, some constraints impeded the attainment of the maximum coverage rate, particularly in respect of inadequate personnel for the immunization exercise, the remote location of District Health Centres for some of the communities, lack of demographic data, the prejudices of some parents in the Far North, specifically in locations where the survey indicated that about 8% of children had never been immunized since their birth. A DHS-MICS survey shows that the lowest immunization rates in terms of vaccination coverage in Cameroon are recorded in regions where women are less educated.

D- Reducing child mortality

257. In terms of neo-natal mortality per 1000 live births: in 2011, the figure was 22 per 1000 live births (LB) as against 29 per 1000 LB in 2010. As a result, there is an improved performance as far as this area is concerned. The child mortality rate in 2011 was 44 per 1000 LB as against 56 / 1000 LB in 2010. Regarding infant and child mortality, in 2011: it was 122 per 1000 LB and 136/1000 LB in 2010.

Section III: COMBATING MORBIDITY AND PROMOTING HEALTH

258. Combating diseases is structured around programmes outlined as part of the Health Sector Strategy, and it is based on the will to ensure free health care as much as possible with the specific objective of strengthening the fight against morbidity by addressing the problem of malaria (§1), strengthening national response to HIV/AIDS through prevention and care (§2), combating other diseases (§3). Beyond these specific methods, measures were also taken to ensure improvement in availability and accessibility of essential medicines (§4).

§1- Combating Malaria

259. Malaria was identified in the previous report as an endemic disease and the primary cause of mortality in the country. The table below presents developments in malaria cases and morbidity in connection with this pandemic.

Table n°26 : Developments in malaria and morbidity cases (%) from 2007 to 2011

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total number of persons consulted	604, 153	4, 064, 854	4, 906, 390	5, 122, 057	5,957, 438
Total number of malaria cases	313, 095	1, 650, 749	1, 883, 199	1, 845, 691	1,829, 266
Morbidity in %	36, 00%	41%	38%	36%	30, 71%

Source : *Roll Back Malaria* (MINSANTE)

260. Rolling back malaria targeted access to quality health care for the population (A) and strengthening the participatory approach (B).

A) Access to health care

261. One of the significant measures taken concerned free treatment of uncomplicated malaria in respect of children under five (5) years with effect from 1st February, 2011, in all health facilities. In 2011, this decision led to the supply of 218.050 anti-malaria doses to all health facilities for the treatment of this type of malaria. The other actions towards access to health centred on the popularization of the quick diagnostic kits and the supply of medicines through the :

- Grant of 75 billion provided by the Global Fund against Malaria, AIDS and Tuberculosis ;
- Reduction in the price of Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (ACT in the hospitals ;
- Reduction in anti-malaria drugs to between 235 and 1000francs in the drug and chemical shops ;
- Free distribution of sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine to pregnant women for intermittent preventive treatment of malaria. The table below presents the number of pregnant women on intermittent preventive treatment.

Table 27 : Number of pregnant women on intermittent preventive treatment

Number of pregnant women on intermittent preventive treatment (IPT) in 2011)	
IPT 1	285 925
IPT 2	187 191
IPT 3	110 834

Source : *Cameroon Tribune*, 18 July 2012 edition

B) Strengthening participatory prevention

262. The preventive measures centred on vector control of diseases by introducing house spraying exercise. It focused specifically on the « Night Watch » operation which targets increased use of long-lasting insecticidal treated nets (LLIN) in the communities to ensure drastic reduction of the disease. In this light, a widespread and free distribution of long-lasting treated mosquito nets was carried out. The table below provides essential information on the coverage rate of LLINs in 2011³¹.

Table 28 : Coverage rate of LLINs

Estimated population of Cameroon in 2011	20 138 637
Number of LLINs distributed	8 119 670
Coverage rate	88, 70%
Universal coverage	72, 57%
Distribution Strategy	1 LLIN for 2.2 persons

Source : National Anti-Malaria Control Programme

263. In 2011, it was noted that the total number of persons consulted and infected with malaria had significantly reduced. Thus, during the year under review, out of 5 957 438 respondents, 1 829 266 cases were identified as against 1 845 691 cases out of 5 122 057 respondents in 2010. The morbidity of this disease also declined from 36% in 2010 to 30.71% in 2011.

264. **It must be underscored efforts made by the Government of Cameroon towards malaria control were crowned with the award of the ALMA (African Leaders against Malaria Alliance) Prize to Cameroon at the 18th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa for the outstanding progress made in the fight against malaria during the preceding year. Furthermore, at the 20th AU Summit in January, 2013 in Addis Ababa, the ALMA Prize for Excellence was awarded to Cameroon for its malaria control policy.**

§2- Consolidating the national response to HIV/AIDS

265. The national response to HIV/AIDS focused on both prevention and care (A) and on the protection of the rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS (B).

A) Prevention and Care

266. In Cameroon, HIV/AIDS is a public health problem. The prevalence rate as compared to the 2010 projections is around 5.1%, or close to 570,000 persons infected with the virus. The strategic plan to address the AIDS issue is quite relevant as indicated in the preceding report. However, its objectives have been redirected by the Government as follows :

- Elimination of mother to child transmission through the intensification of primary prevention among mothers between 15 and 49 years ;
- Consolidation of family planning ;
- Improvement of coverage through the use of anti-retroviral drugs among pregnant women who are infected with the HIV ;

³¹ Table n° 6 indicates the number of LLINs actually distributed in 2011. About 500. 000 remaining ones will be distributed during the first quarter of 2012.

- Strengthening of mother and child monitoring ;
- Free distribution of anti-retroviral drugs.

267. Apart from the wide-ranging measures taken, since the introduction of the AIDS control strategic plan, it must also be noted that other more important measures were initiated. They include in particular :

- Mobilization of funds to finance the priority measures outlined in the National Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 ;
- Strengthening of Government action on the ground through the establishment of new health care units (UPEC) which currently cover 100 Health Districts out of the 179 districts in the country ;
- Training of 5,899 personnel to provide care for persons living with HIV (PLWHA) ;
- Providing sufficient medical equipment for 67 health facilities to ensure adequate health care for patients.

268. In terms of infrastructure, the Government continues to ensure an increase in the number of approved treatment centres (ATCs), and to promote sensitization campaigns along the same lines as the 9th Edition dubbed " Vacation without AIDS" under the theme « Young Girl, Get Screened » aimed at sensitizing 500,000 young persons in order to achieve a quota of 40,000 screening tests.

269. As indicated in the previous report, in its paragraph 213, Cameroon continues to support national and regional initiatives like the African Synergies and Chantal BIYA Foundation.

270. All the indicators on AIDS prevalence following the various measures taken confirm that the AIDS pandemic seems to be stabilizing. At the end of September, 2011, Cameroon already had a little more than 100,000 patients on anti-retroviral drug treatment (ARVs) with 60% being women and 40% men and about 4,000 children.

B) Protection of the rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS

271. A project aimed at strengthening the protection of the rights of PLWHA was designed jointly by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS UNAIDS) in August 2011 for a period of 12 months. It is intended to contribute to the reduction of stigmatization and discrimination against persons infected with HIV, the most recurrent of cases being found in the hospital environment, work places and in the communities.

272. The Project started in August 2011, and it was coordinated by the Central Technical Group of the National AIDS Control Committee. The Ministry of Justice undertook a mission to Douala and Buéa to make an inventory of the PLWHA communities in these two cities. Thereafter, a working visit was undertaken to these two cities from 31 October to 04 November 2011 in order to identify the representatives of the healthcare communities as part of the training of trainers programme.

273. To promote access of PLWHA to justice, a Capacity Building Workshop for Judges on HIV/AIDS-related human rights was organized in Douala from 06 to 08 December, 2011, for Judges of the Appeal Courts in the Littoral and South-West Provinces.

274. One must also mention the Supreme Court Order n°192/c of 25 September, 2008 as part of measures taken to protect the right to health of persons living with HIV/AIDS. In this Order, the Supreme Court, taking into consideration the fact that there is currently no cure for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, sentenced DIEYE KADER to pay FCFA 200,000 every month and indefinitely to Ms. NGO MOUTLEN Catherine whom he infected with HIV/AIDS.
275. As part of the mission undertaken to Cameroon from 4 to 14 September 2012, accompanied by Madam SOYATA MAÏGA, Madam Lucy ASUAGBOR, the Chairperson of the Committee for the Protection of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, Persons at Risk, Vulnerable to or affected by HIV/AIDS, observed the firm determination of the highest authorities of Cameroon to control HIV/AIDS by adopting relevant policies, plans and programmes.

§3- Measures to control certain diseases

A-Control of Cholera

276. In 2010, the breakout of an unprecedented epidemic in Cameroon in eight out of ten regions, 67 health districts out of 179 with 10,441 cases recorded and 657 deaths, representing a mortality rate of 6.1%, compelled the authorities of Cameroon to take the following actions :
- Establishment of a multi-sectoral operational committee on cholera control ;
 - Establishment of cholera control and coordination centre in Maroua ;
 - Reactivation of local cholera control committees ;
 - Strengthening of epidemiological surveillance and the response capacity of personnel ;
 - Provision of free health care for cases within the treatment centres established in order to reduce the excess burden of patients on hospitals ;
 - Sensitization on good hygienic practices and sanitation.
277. All these measures contributed to stemming the upsurge in the epidemic in spite of the resurgence of sporadic cases.

B- Control of Buruli Ulcer

278. After the identification and diagnosis of 3,017 cases of Buruli ulcer, the Government, in furtherance of its strategy to control the disease, set up five centres to provide free health care for the disease. The operationalization of a National Committee per Decision n°0486/DMINSANTE/CAB of 02 June 2009 made it possible for free health care to be extended to all areas affected by the disease.

C- Control of non-transmissible diseases

279. The crisis level reached by the resurgence of non-transmissible diseases such as diabetes and hypertension which is complicated by malfunctioning kidneys compelled the Government of Cameroon to :
- Take the decision to subsidize the dialysis session to ensure that the patient pays only 5,000 francs of the actual cost of 10,000 francs, representing 50% of the required costs
 - Improve the supply of existing technical services;
 - Accelerate the third phase of the project by commissioning the Bertoua and Ebolowa Centres in 2011, while the second phase projected for Bafoussam and N'Gaoundéré dialyses centres was completed in 2012.

D- Fight against cancer

- 280.** Health care for cancer is becoming alarming and imperative because of their upsurge in Cameroon. As the mainstay of cancer control, the National Committee for Cancer Control has proposed free screening tests for the cervix, breast and prostate. Furthermore, this programme provides free care and treatment for pre-cancerous growths and carries out tertiary prevention. Among other measures, the Government first of all starts with education (A Day without Tobacco), provides curative health care in hospitals in cases where the patient gets into the facility early enough. In support of this government action, the Chantal BIYA Foundation, through the pediatric hemato-oncology unit, ensures health care delivery to children with cancer.
- 281.** Through the CENAME, the government buys chemotherapy products which are divided into two parts, 40% of these products are sent to Douala where there are specialists in chemotherapy and 60% remain in Yaoundé. As a result of the efforts made, the chemotherapy sessions cost 50 to 70% less than the normal price, the rationale being to assist patients who lack the necessary financial resources to purchase the required materials for surgery.

E- Control of female obstetrical fistulas

- 282.** In controlling obstetrical fistulas, the Cameroonian authorities trained personnel to provide clinical healthcare for the different infections relating to obstetrical fistulas. On the whole, about ten were trained and close to 130 women benefitted from health care mainly in the Northern and Far North regions. This effort which is generally laudable is still inadequate looking at the excessively high number of cases in this part of the country.

§4- Improving the availability and accessibility of essential drugs

- 283.** This improvement has led to the :
- Registration of 669 new references after assessing new medicines ;
 - Review of the prices of a list of 350 medicines in collaboration with pharmaceutical companies ;
 - Approval of three new pharmaceutical companies as part of strengthening the supply of quality drugs ;
 - Acquisition and distribution of stocks of sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine free of charge in the ten regions of the country for the Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) of malaria among pregnant women at a cost of 30 million CFA francs ;
 - Acquisition of antiseptic medicines and equipment for the management of the cholera epidemic.
 - Granting of subsidies to the health networks through specific financing of the C2D in terms of training , support, provision of medicines and equipment ;
 - Granting of subsidies to certain molecules such as medicines for malaria, tuberculosis and ARVs ;
 - Removal of taxes on inputs to ensure reduced costs of biological tests ;
 - Tax exemptions regarding corporate taxes were effected in 2010 in respect of public administrative facilities, thus reducing the financial burden of hospitals to enable them concentrate on health problems.

SECTION V: DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT HEALTH

284. The development of district health facilities is one of the reasons why 44% of the 2012 draft budget of the Ministry of Health was devoted to investments. The realization of this programme is broken down into four major actions: support to reinforce the health system through the SWAP (§1) the construction of integrated health centres (§2), the development of operational research (§3), the development of a partnership strategy (§4).

§1- Support for the strengthening of the health system through the SWAP

285. This strengthening aspect made it possible for 178 health districts to be able to produce an Annual Work Plan (AWP) every year, to implement it and achieve the targeted results.

§2) Construction of hospital infrastructure

286. In 2010, it must be noted that 130 integrated health centres were built (CSI) as well as 13 municipal medical centres (CMA). This measure helped to harmonize both the reception environment for health facilities at all levels of the health pyramid with adequate and enhanced technical services in order to reduce, as a matter of priority, the prevailing mortality and morbidity.

287. The improvement of infrastructure was also directed at building and equipping referral hospitals. Thus, in 2010, two (02) hemodialysis centres were built at Maroua and Buea, in addition to two (02) medical imaging centres in N'Gaoundéré and Bafoussam. For now, construction works of the Sangmélima referral hospital are 90% complete while those of the Gynaeco-obstetrical and paediatric hospital in Douala were launched in 2011.

§3) Development of operational health research

288. By way of developing operational research, Cameroon committed itself to putting in place a lot of mechanisms, arrangements and a regulatory framework for the administrative, scientific and ethical evaluation and supervision of research. In its policy of strengthening universal access to quality health care, the Cameroonian Government, per Decree N°2011/336 of 13 October 2011 established the University Research and Application Centre in Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproduction (CHRACERH). The purpose of this centre is to carry out endoscopic and human reproduction research and to provide health care in endoscopic surgery, medically-assisted childbirth and medical care in very high risk pregnancies.

§4) Development of partnership strategy

289. The Cameroonian Government opened a new era with the signing of health services performance contracts with Procurement Agencies. Through these contracts, the health facilities will be rewarded according to the services they provide, the idea being that these contracts will be signed with health facilities to ensure that they provide appreciable, qualitative and quantitative health services. For children, the Government, through the Ministry of Public Health, has called on French and Swiss doctors of the *Children Action* Foundation for collaboration, by which these doctors will visit the Gynaeco-Obstetrical Hospital in Yaoundé two times a year for a period of 10 days each to offer genetical counseling to families, operate on some children and train Cameroonian medical doctors.

Chapter 3: THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION (ARTICLE 17 paragraph (1) OF THE CHARTER)

290. The measures for the implementation of the right to education stated in the previous report, paragraphs 225-316 were continued during the period under review by taking into account the objectives of the sector within the context of the GESP, whether in respect of formal education with its various educational levels such as basic education (Section I), secondary education (Section II) and higher education (Section III) or non-formal education (Section IV). The developments recorded in these different levels of education will also include data on **education in human rights prescribed by Article 25 of the Charter**.

Section I : Basic Education

291. Basic education is made up of pre-school and primary education. The targeted objective according to the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) in pre-school education is to **expand the coverage of pre-school education** by developing the community experience for the rural population and by involving the decentralized territorial structures. At the basic education level, the improvement of access and equity, of efficiency and the quality of the system are the priorities of the policy as outlined in the GESP. The specific objectives at this level of education comprise the completion of the primary cycle, the harmonization of the Anglophone and Francophone sub-systems, enhancement of general services and the limitation of private financing to parents with adequate financial capacity.

292. During the period under review, there was a significant increase in the resources allocated for basic education. The Budget of the Ministry of Basic Education increased from CFAF 125 368 000 000³² in 2008 to CFAF 153 102 000 000 in 2009, then to CFAF 167 728 000 000 in 2010 and in 2011 to CFAF 142 078 000 000, in 2012 to CFAF 160 830 000 000 and CFAF 171 118 000 000 in 2013. This increase in resources made it possible to consolidate the gains in the provision of education (§1), to continue with measures for enhancing the quality of education (§2) and to attain a significant level of development in enrolment indicators (§3).

§1- Consolidation of the gains in provision of education

293. The consolidation of the gains was carried out in particular through the recruitment of new teachers (A) and the development of school infrastructure (B).

A) Recruitment of new teachers

294. The contractual employment of former part-time teachers launched in 2006 was continued with the assistance of technical and financial partners. Thus in **2011**, the total number of personnel recruited under this scheme was estimated at 37 200 teachers, with female teachers

³² Representing about 191 124 323 euros

representing 60.33%, or 22 441 teachers. This recruitment exercise brought the overall total of teachers at the Ministry of Basic Education to 72 996 persons.

295. There is the need to specify that the pre-school sector employed 14 544 teachers, with 5 779 in public schools and 8 765 in private schools. Women account for 97 % of teachers at this level of education while 76% of instructors working in these private establishments have not received any prior training.

B) Development of school infrastructure

296. The development of school infrastructure was characterized, among others, by the increase in the number of schools and classrooms as illustrated in the table below :

Table 29 : Number of schools and classrooms at the primary educational level in 2009

INDICATORS	AVERAGE
Number of primary schools in the Francophone sub-system	10 372
Number of primary schools in the Anglophone sub-system	3 484
Number of public primary schools	9 656
Number of private primary schools	3 723
Number of classrooms in the Francophone sub-system	51 778
Number of classrooms in the Anglophone sub-system	18 027

Source : Ministry of Basic Education.

297. The provision of infrastructural facilities at the pre-school level increased to 4933 kindergartens in 2010. The improvement in the provision of education at this level was achieved through the building of new structures, the rehabilitation of some school infrastructure and classroom equipment.

B- CONTINUATION OF ACTIONS TOWARDS IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

298. As indicated in the previous report (paragraphs 267 to 281), the actions for the improvement of the quality of education continued to centre on human rights education (1), teaching of national languages (2), ICT (3) and addressing gender disparities and development of the gender dimension (4).

1) Human Rights Education

299. The education on human rights started with a pilot phase initially scheduled for the 2008-2009 academic year, but it was extended to the following year. For this phase, fifty (50) primary schools were selected all over the country, with nine (09) of them being Anglophone and thirty-four (34) Francophone while seven (07) were bilingual schools.

2-Teaching of national languages

300. During the period under review, the preparatory activities for the introduction of national languages in the curriculum at the primary school level were continued in collaboration with the Operational Research Project for the Teaching of National Languages in Cameroon, named PROPELCA. Thus, in 2010, 22 national languages were standardized, and as their writing system was made to conform with the general alphabets of Cameroonian languages, they had already been introduced for teaching on pilot basis in some localities of the ten (10) regions of the country.

301. At the end of the initial evaluation of the teaching (vernacular/ national language) in the Francophone regions where French is the predominant language of instruction, it was demonstrated that a child who starts his first three (3) years of education in the mother tongue achieves better results as compared to his colleague who starts his lessons directly in the French language. In the light of the results obtained at the experimental phase, the activities carried out made it possible to strengthen the performance of the young learners of the French language. To ensure greater effectiveness, the teaching materials and the existing educational textbooks had to be improved for use in formal teaching.
302. From the beginning of the 2013-2014 academic year, it is projected that this teaching will be launched in 150 pilot schools selected all over the country.

3- Teaching of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

303. The promotion of teaching in respect of information and communication technology (ICT) started in 2008. In 2009, the focus shifted to the training of trainers and teachers, and the readjustment of training tools prior to the start of the evaluation of this teaching. During the examination in 2010, the first optional papers in information and communication technology were organized at the basic education level particularly at the *First School Leaving Certificate*, or the FSLC, and the Professional Teaching Certificate for Pre-school and Primary School Teachers (CAPIEMP).

4 : Promotion of Girl Child Education and Promotion of Gender Dimension

304. The efforts by the Government to ensure enrollment of all children, is sometimes confronted with the challenge relating to people's regard for socio-cultural values linked to traditions in certain regions of Cameroon where educating the child in general, and the girl child in particular, is not considered as a priority.
305. To address this issue, the Government, as indicated in the previous periodic report (para 280), continued to take some specific measures towards the enrollment of the girl child with the assistance of development partners. This refers to:
- The accelerated initiative for the enrollment of the girl child embarked upon since 2005. This initiative is structured around sensitization, capacity building, advocacy and partnership to boost the statistical indicators for the enrollment of the girl child in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ;
 - The development of Child Friendly, Girl Friendly School System (EAEAF) which requires and facilitates the enforcement of the rights of children in general and girls in particular. Thus, the principle of parity is operated by the Government in the enrolment of children into the schools to ensure the involvement of girls in the decision-making process. The improvement of the learning process has also been initiated through the construction of separate latrines for girls and boys, improvement in the rules of hygiene and beautification of the school environment ;
 - Improving parental education: It targets the strengthening of the capacity of parents towards the full survival and development of the child. A curriculum for the education of parents was prepared with the assistance of UNICEF, through the preparation of programmes which place girls, parents, families and communities at the centre-stage for an integrated approach towards actions focused on the young child in health/nutrition, water/hygiene, sanitation, protection, equity/gender, early learning and stimulation ;

- Promoting the principle of tutoring: This approach also facilitates the retention of girls in schools. In view of the violence and the difficulties faced by girls in school, the tutoring system has made it possible for the grown-ups to take care of the very young ones ;
- School Canteen and Dry Rations Project carried out in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP). Against this background, nutritional assistance is given to needy children in schools within the priority education zones so as to enhance the enrolment rate of girls and improve their attendance rate and retention in school until they complete the first cycle ; Thus, from January to June 2010, 1 545 328 tonnes of foodstuff were transported and distributed to 52 231 pupils spread across 246 schools covered by this Programme.

Table 30: Number of female beneficiaries of take-away rations

REGIONS	2009	2010	2011	2012
ADAMAOUA	1311	1658	826	826
NORTH	1895	2691	1394	1394
FAR NORTH	3917	4203	1558	1558
TOTAL	7123	8552	3778	3778

Source : Central Coordination Unit of the WFP/MINEDUB Project

- 306.** As part of the assistance to pupils in the Adamaoua, North and Far North regions, specific actions were targeted at girls, by providing them with take-away rations. Under this scheme, this special support was extended to 7123 girls in 2009, 8552 girls in 2010, 3778 in 2011 and 3778 girls in 2012.
- 307.** It must be emphasized that in addition to the meals taken in the canteen, girls in CE2 (Primary Class 4) and CM2 (Primary Class 6) receive take-away rations, or 50 kg of cereals at the end of every term, just to encourage the parents to allow the girls to complete primary school.
- 308.** These efforts made it possible to maintain a constant growth in the number of girls enrolled. The enrollment which was 497 882, in 2007/2008 academic year rose to 583 419 in 2008/2009, then to 628 167 in 2009/2010. This development should be seen in the context of a general trend of improved enrolment indicators.

C- SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN ENROLLMENT INDICATORS

- 309.** The enrolment indicators grew both in the pre-school (1) and the primary level (2).

1- Pre-school indicators

They are summarized in the table below as follows.

Table 31: Presentation of pre-school indicators (PSI) in 2008, 2009 and 2010

YEAR	SCHOOL POPULATION (4-5 YEARS)		AGE		SCHOOLING POPULATION		GROSS PRE-SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATE (% GER)		
	B+G	G	B+G	G	B	G	B+G	PSI	
2007-2008	1273 152	623 211	263 855	132 369	20,22	21,22	20,71	1,05	
2008-2009	1136 967	565 452	287 885	144 880	25,0%	25,6%	25,3%	1,02	
2009-2010	1162572	572631	316 722	158883	26,7%	27,8%	27,2%	1,04	
2010-2011	1162571	572630	339585	170903					

Source : Ministry of Basic Education.

310. This table presents an increase in the school population from the perspective of gender equity with a pre-school enrolment rate of girls slightly higher than that of boys. With regard to geographical disparity, the urban areas enjoy better coverage than the gross pre-school enrolment rate of 44.8% in the urban areas as against 14.6% in the rural areas. In 2010, 65 % of pre-school pupils enrolled in private schools.

B- PRIMARY EDUCATION

311. During the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic years, indicators on coverage and primary school performance also improved as presented in the table below:

Table 32: Developments relating to coverage indicators and primary school performance in the 2010-2011 academic year as against the 2009-2010 academic year.

Indicators	Academic Year		Target 2015	
	2009-2010	2010-2011		
Gross enrolment rate	110%	110,9%	100%	
Completion rate	73%	73,5%	88%	
Completion rate for girls	68,8%	68,3%	88%	
Completion rate in the PEZ	56%	59%	88%	
% of repetition in the Franco sub-system	15%	14,2%	13,6%	
% of repetition in the Anglo sub-system	6%	6,4%	13,6%	
% of overall repetition	13%	14,2%	13,6%	
Gross enrolment rate in the PEZ	107%	113,8%	100%	
Boys/Girls Gender Parity Index on GER	0,89%	0,89%	1,0%	
Boys/Girls Gender Parity Index in the PEZ in relation to GER	0,75%	0,77%	1,0%	
Overall survival rates	59,4%	58,1%	100%	
% of pupils in private schools	22,4%	22,2%	12,7%	
Access rate	125%	126%	100%	
Textbooks availability rates	Reading	11%	7%	100%
	Mathematics	10%	6,1%	100%
	Sciences	4%	2,1%	100%
	English/French	9%	5,5%	100%

Source : DP/PC/ MINEDUB.

312. In the light of the statistics presented above, it must be indicated with satisfaction that there was a positive growth in enrolment indicators during the year under review. To this end, and as an illustration, the completion rate for primary school in the Priority Education Zones or PEZ, moved upwards from 56% in 2009-2010 to 59% in 2010-2011, and to a projected target of 88%

by 2015. Furthermore, the overall completion rate in primary school went up from 73% in 2009-2010 to 73.5% in 2010-2011, and to the same projected target of 88% by 2015.

In the same vein, the boys/girls gender parity index in the Priority Educational Zones (PEZs) grew by 0.75% in 2009-2010 to 0.77% in 2010-2011, and to a target of 1.0% by 2015, even though the relative national threshold at the gross enrolment rate of 0.89 has remained the same for the past two years. Generally, the upward change in the enrolment indicators highlights the efforts made by the Government as part of the process of improving education.

Section II : SECONDARY EDUCATION

313. Paragraphs 282 et seq. of the 2nd Periodic Report of Cameroon on significant measures taken in terms of secondary education are still relevant. It must be specified that for the 2008-2012 period, the objectives of the education system were to improve the performance of health facilities for the youth and look for ways of properly matching training with employment.

A- Improvement in access to education and equity

314. During the period under review, the increase in the number of schools enhanced access to schools by a growing number of pupils and improving geographical access.

1- Expansion of school infrastructure

315. The status of the number of schools 2011/2012 is presented as follows :

Table 33: Developments regarding the number of schools per region and types of education

Years	Sector	Types	Adamaoua	Central	East	Far North	Littoral	North	North-West	West	South	South-West	National
2009 /2010	Public	ESG	57	259	61	138	95	61	112	182	98	131	1 194
		ETP	11	67	18	13	26	16	57	46	32	41	327
		Total	68	326	79	151	121	77	169	228	130	172	1 521
	Private	ESG	6	230	16	13	164	15	59	91	17	80	691
		ETP	2	67	1	2	89	-	25	70	4	14	274
		Total	8	297	17	15	253	15	84	161	21	94	965
Overall		59	460	73	130	295	76	219	340	126	175	1 953	
2010 /2011	Public	ESG	68	290	75	177	113	72	202	200	111	154	1 462
		ETP	12	92	25	23	28	19	68	58	38	50	413
		Polyvalent	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
		Total	80	382	100	200	142	91	270	258	149	204	1 876
	Private	ESG	8	232	16	14	170	13	62	95	18	82	710
		ETP	3	68	1	2	58	-	24	38	3	10	207
		Polyvalent	1	-	-	1	32	2	6	37	2	5	86
		Total	12	300	17	17	260	15	92	170	23	97	1 003
Overall		92	682	117	217	402	106	362	428	172	301	2 879	
2011/ 2012	Public	ESG	71	304	80	195	120	80	207	217	115	161	1 550
		EST	12	99	32	30	30	21	74	74	40	51	463
		Polyvalent	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
		ENIEG	5	10	3	6	4	4	7	6	5	7	57
		ENIET		1			1		1				3
		Total	88	414	115	231	156	105	289	297	160	219	2 074
	Private	ESG	12	214	11	16	139	20	103	64	21	107	707
		ETP	-	32	1	1	17	-	10	14	3	1	79
		Polyvalent	1	61	5	-	107	1	15	39	9	5	243
		ENIEG	1	23	-	-	4	-	4	5	-	3	40
		ENIET		2					2				4
Total		14	332	17	17	267	21	134	122	33	116	1 073	
Overall		102	746	132	248	423	126	423	419	193	335	3 147	

Source : CELPLAN/DPPC/MINESEC

Table 34: Developments in terms of ordinary classrooms according to the type of education and region

Regions	2009/2010			2010/2011			2010/2012			Annual growth rate between 2009/2010 and 2011/2012
	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total	
Adamaoua	1 357	98	1 455	1 391	147	1 538	1 391	167	1 558	3,48%
Central	3 784	1 923	5 707	3 920	2 495	6 415	3 920	3 703	7 623	15,57%
East	1 075	128	1 203	1 109	189	1 298	1 184	296	1 480	10,92%
Far North	1 357	46	1 403	1 423	89	1 512	1 803	157	1 960	18,20%
Littoral	2 294	2 874	5 168	2 354	3 371	5 725	2 391	4 683	7 074	17,00%
North	1 410	187	1 597	1 444	220	1 664	1 444	220	1 664	2,08%
North-West	1 979	865	2 844	2 067	977	3 044	2 388	1 066	3 454	10,20%
West	3 098	2 458	5 556	3 190	2 639	5 829	3 572	2 639	6 211	5,73%
South	1 287	358	1 645	1 347	439	1 786	1 478	471	1 949	8,85%
South-West	1 506	1 387	2 893	1 572	1 587	3 159	1 725	1 587	3 312	7,00%
National	19 147	10 324	29 471	19 817	12 153	31 970	21 296	14 989	36 285	10,96%

316. In the 2011/2012 academic year, the number of schools rose to 4755 or 1876 in the public sector and 2879 in the private sector. The number of classrooms also increased to 21296 in the public sector and 14989 in the private sector.

The expansion of school infrastructure was characterized, among others, by the desire to align training to employment, leading subsequently to an increase in the provision of technical education. Thus, the number of schools increased from 417 schools in 2010 to 463 in 2012.

2- Increase in enrolments

317. The enrolments in secondary education increased as indicated in the table below :

Table 35 : Number of pupils enrolled

Academic Year	2009/2010			2010/2011			2011/2012		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Total	618 532	772 216	1390 747	71660 5	857847 2	157443 2	64959 6	704303 6	1 353 899

Source : CELPLAN/DPPC/MINESEC

318. In terms of general education, enrolments increased from 66 129 pupils in 2006/2007 to 1 023 285 pupils in 2008/2009, then to 1 116 725 in 2009/2010, and subsequently to 1 353 899 pupils in 2011/2012. The increase in classroom facilities led to pupils expressing interest in

technical education. For instance, in 2004, there were 114 040 students in the first year of technical education as against 198 974 students in 2010, representing an increase of 74.47%. The proportion of boys in both general and technical education is higher than that of girls. For purposes of illustration, the number of boys in general education was 598 256 as against 518 469 for girls. In technical education, the boys were 141 298 or 56.30% as against 109 698 girls or 43.70%.

- 319.** To guarantee economic access to education, measures were taken to regulate the functioning of Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) for a better management of the educational community and the related Funds, the stabilization of PTS dues and the prohibition of collection of illegal dues in the schools during registration of students.

3- Geographical accessibility

- 320.** Tables 33 and 34 above provide a summary per region, data on students, schools and classrooms during the 2011/2012 academic year. The measures taken to strengthen the internal and external efficiency of the system centred on the quality of the programmes (1), strengthening supervision (2). The results obtained make it possible to assess the impact of actions taken (3).

3.1 Quality of programmes

- 321.** The professionalization of education and adaptation of education to the national cultural needs are, among others, the priorities on the basis of which measures were taken to guarantee the quality of programmes.

a) Professionalisation

- 322.** The search for alignment of training to employment consisted in introducing technological modules in general education on the one hand, and a more sustained attention for technical education, on the other.

- 323.** With regard to technical education, as part of the Technical Education Reform Assistance and Vocational Training Project (PARETFOP), an information guide was published in 2009 on training opportunities and employability. It presents seven (7) training niches likely to create employment opportunities by 2018. Against this background, some sectors were re-visited while new ones were created. In this regard, shorthand and typewriting courses became Secretarial and office automation while hairdressing and beauty fashion and biomedical hospital maintenance were created in 2010. Moreover, vocational training programmes according to the skills-based approach were developed in eleven technical educational institutions and in eight women development centres to provide the female students with a training adapted to the Cameroonian labour market.

- 324.** The effective partnership with various members of society is one of the tools of vocational orientation. In this regard, work-study programmes in the technical training institutions and businesses were developed through partnership agreements for internships involving learners and even teachers.

b)- Adaptability of education to national cultural needs

- 325.** The promotion of bilingualism and mother tongues, access to information and communication technology (ICT) were mobilized as part of adapting education to national cultural needs. Thus, a special bilingual education programme was prepared and tested from the 2008/2009 academic year. The teaching of languages and national culture was introduced in

public educational institutions in 2009. In 2010, though this teaching was still in its experimental phase, it was actually taught in seven (07) senior high schools covering a student population of 5281.

326. With regard to ICT, significant efforts were made in regulating computer services by private operators. In 2010, 15 multimedia resource centres were established and equipped, and 33 computer service providers were given approval for the management of 222 computer centres, bringing the ICT penetration rate to 21.66%. These calculations were based on 299 public schools equipped with the necessary tools out of 1930 existing ones.

3.2 Strengthening supervision

327. This aspect was managed mainly by increasing the number of teachers, and this action made a positive impact on performance.

a) Number of teaching personnel

328. The number of teaching personnel grew from 19505 in 2008/2009 to 37141 in 2010/2011. The number continued to grow up to 50.427 in 2011/2012.

Tables 36 below provide a summary of situational analysis between 2010/2011 and 2011/2012:

Status	2010/2011					2011/2012				
	General Secondary Sch.		Vocational Training School		Total	General Secondary Sch.		Vocational Training School		Total
	Men	Women	Men	Women		Men	Women	Men	Women	
Part-time teachers	2 434	8 747	1 185	2 402	14 768	2 465	10 747	989	3 528	17 729
High School Teachers	3 430	5 740	808	1 622	11 600	5 493	7 445	1 206	2 010	16 154
Junior High School Teachers	1 569	3 564	782	1 417	7 332	3 913	5 273	1 475	2 180	12 841
Teachers on contract	342	910	964	1 498	3 714	408	1 042	657	1 596	3 703
Overall	7 775	18 961	3 739	6 939	37 414	12 279	24 507	4 327	9 314	50 427

Regions		Adamaoua	Central region	Eastern Region	Far-North	Littoral	North	North-West	West	South	South-West	National
2009 / 2010	ESG H	561	2 592	624	1 821	1 793	832	2 027	2 903	1 030	1 663	15 846
	F	149	1 912	196	218	1 054	208	1 365	1 087	333	990	7 512
	ETP H	210	1 036	364	369	731	185	361	642	430	243	4 571
	F	50	1 129	145	65	511	35	640	302	169	435	3 481

	Total		771	3 628	988	2 190	2 524	1 017	2 388	3 545	1 460	1 906	20 417
2010 / 2011	ES G	H	224	1 609	206	273	1 400	229	1 445	1 280	294	815	7 775
		F	775	2 944	721	2 092	2 284	1 280	2 161	3 674	1 195	1 835	18 961
	ET P	H	112	1 328	38	54	596	138	424	504	200	345	3 739
		F	317	1 713	230	332	892	517	702	1 050	586	600	6 939
	Total		1 428	7 594	1 195	2 751	5 172	2 164	4 732	6 508	2 275	3 595	37 414
2010 / 2012	ES G	H	305	3 958	366	434	1 790	268	1 904	1 665	484	1 181	12 355
		F	910	4 441	714	2 156	2 538	1 433	2 637	3 780	1 219	1 940	21 768
	ET P	H	166	1 324	198	145	627	213	507	569	246	336	4 331
		F	318	1 784	479	462	927	574	685	1 229	581	632	7 671
	Total		1 699	11 507	1 757	3 197	5 882	2 488	5 733	7 243	2 530	4 089	46 125

Source : CELPLAN/DPPC/MINESEC

329. This number of teachers makes it impossible to attain the national teacher/student ratio which is one teacher per sixty pupils at the first cycle, and a teacher per fifty students at the second cycle. In practice, the ratio is one teacher per one hundred and twenty (120) pupils. The recruitment of teachers on contractual basis and the increase in the number of teachers in training colleges will help to address the deficit.

330. Evaluation of teachers is done by organizing teaching profession days, seminars and in-service training for them by the Inspectorate Division of Education. With regard to staff motivation, the indicator selected here is access to positions of responsibility. Concerning heads of schools, the above table provides information on the situation from 2009 to 2012. On gender dimension, it must be noted that out of 1514 heads of schools in 2009/2010, only 104 were women, representing 6.87%, which is by far below the 34% rate which women account for in the teaching profession. Apart from heads of schools, it must be pointed out that heads of sporting activities were appointed in schools in 2009 and heads of department for post-school or school-related activities in 2010.

331. Concerning the claims by teachers (through their trade unions) on the need to improve their conditions of service and alleviate poverty, and in line with the provisions of Decree n°2001/041 of 19/02/2001 on the organization of public educational institutions and the terms of reference of school administrators, the following achievements must be noted :

- Appointment of sports masters since 2009 ;
- Appointment of post-school and school-related activities in 2011 ;
- Pledge by the Government to pay book allowance to teachers and implement other benefits with effect from January 2012 under the Specific Statute of the Educational Corps;

- Regulating the operations of Parent Teachers' Associations (PTAs) for better management of educational communities ;
- Stabilization of PTA dues for the 2011/2012 academic year (to address extortion of monies from parents...);
- Instructions prohibiting collection of illegal dues during the registration of pupils in schools in 2011/2012.

b) Results

332. The results obtained in the different official examinations are a relevant indicator in assessing the impact of measures taken to improve the quality of education. In Cameroon, official examinations are organized by various bodies, the Ministry of Secondary Education (Examinations, Competitive Examinations and Certification Board (DECC), the General Certificate of Education Board (GCE Board), and the Cameroon Baccalauréat Board (OBC). The summary of the percentage of passes in the official examinations is presented in the following table by taking into account the bodies which organize the examinations.

Table 37: Summary of the results of all Examination Boards for 2009/2010 and 2011/2012

ESG	2009-2010	2011-2012	
	Girls + Boys	Girls	Girls + Boys
BEPC	73 700	46 978	101 807
GCE OL General, performance	30 099	17 254	32 163
PROBATOIRE ESG	50 843	25 499	53 937
BACCALAUREAT ESG	41 444	23 712	51 964
GCE AL General, performance	19 345	11 289	20 963
ETP	2009-2010	2011-2012	
	Girls + Boys	Girls	Girls + Boys
CAP	17 810	6 700	19 146
GCE OL Technical, performance	2 178	1 521	2 805
PROBATOIRE ETP	8 590	4 669	10 734
Probatoire de Brevet de Technicien	3 651	2 188	3 996
BACCALAUREAT ETP	5 424	2 668	7 517
Brevet de Technicien	2 362	1 211	2 782
GCE AL Technical, performance	1 282	1 017	1 754

Source : CELPLAN/DPPC/MINESEC

333. Based on analysis, generally, one may observe that the results have been stable as compared to the 2010 examinations: 46.71% in 2010 and 46.99% in 2011. However, it must be noted that DECC results improved significantly from 43.91% to 50.9% while the OBC and GCE fell slightly from 43.65% to 39.1% and from 59.5% to 49.12 % respectively.

334. As part of post-school and school-related activities, the promotion and participation of the youth in decision-making processes and problem-solving are some of the programmes which affect them directly. This is reflected in the setting up of a children's parliament and the gradual introduction of Youth Municipal Councils.

335. Every year, the organization of school games in one region of the country provides the opportunity for the youth to display their talents in sports, undertake tourism, discover their country and meet other young people.

Section III : HIGHER EDUCATION

- 336.** The developments in paragraph 294 of the previous periodic report on the difficulties faced at the tertiary educational level are still relevant. To address these concerns, the State continued to actively implement the Education Sector Strategy on Higher Education. The steps taken to ensure access and equity were continued as well as the internal and external performance of the university system.
- 337.** The efforts to improve access and equity focused, among others, on increasing and diversifying educational options, monitoring/control of enrolments and on provision of assistance to students.

A- Increasing and diversifying educational options

- 338.** From 2008 to 2011, the increase in educational options was characterized in the public sector by an increase in the number of universities through the establishment of new universities and the operationalization of new schools within the existing universities. In the private sector, the delivery of education was enhanced in 2010, as 98 private educational institutions operated at the tertiary level.
- 339.** In the public sector, two new universities were established, one in Maroua per Decree n°2008/281 of 09 August, 2008 ³³ and one in Bamenda, per Decree n° 2010/371 of 14 December, 2010. With regard to the new schools established within the State universities, the table below presents the status as at 2010.

Table 38 : Operationalizing new schools within the existing State universities

University	
DSCHANG	Institute of Fine Arts (IBA) at Fouban
DOUALA	Institute of Fine Arts, Nkongsamba
	Institute of Fishery Sciences, Yabassi
MAROUA	Institute of Fine Arts, Higher Institute of the Sahel
NGAOUNDERE	Advanced School of Veterinary Medecine
YAOUNDE I	BOIS Mbalmayo University of Technology
BAMENDA	Newly established
UNIVERSITE DE YAOUNDE I	Digital Campus ³⁴

Source : MINESUP

- 340.** In addition to the creation of new universities, the increase in educational options was also characterized by construction works and rehabilitation of infrastructure. A special subvention amounting to FCFA 2 300 000 000³⁵ was therefore allocated in 2008, for infrastructural rehabilitation as part of the recurrent investment budget for each of the universities.
- 341.** In addition to the 8 (eight) State Universities established, there are 133 private Colleges at the higher education level, 02 (two) virtual Universities, a Free Zones University, one Telemedicine Centre, 720 scientific laboratories and the Governance, Humanities and Social Science Centre of Excellence at the Pan African University

³³ The Advanced Teachers' College of this University therefore admitted close to 7000 pupil-teachers during the 2008-2009 academic year.

³⁴ The Digital Campus is part of the project for the creation of two virtual Universities, including the Virtual University of Central Africa.

³⁵ Or approximately 3 506 364 Euros.

B- Controlling student enrolments

342. The student population at the tertiary level is always growing. Thus, the number increased from about 140 000 students in 2006 to about 150 000 in 2008, then went beyond 170 000 in 2009, and thereafter to about 200 000 in 2010. In the eight (8) State Universities, the men accounted for 57.92% in 2010 as against 42.08% for women. To better control the student population, the State intends to fine-tune the regulatory mechanisms to increase the proportion of students in the already regulated sub-system to upgrade it from 13.7% in 2009 to 25% by 2020.

C- Provision of assistance to students

343. In order to ensure equity and facilitate economic access to higher education, the State continues to provide financial assistance to students, develop paid internship programmes during vacations including the programme called *Work Study Program*. With regard to financial assistance to students, support was given to students within the country and to those studying abroad. For Cameroonian students abroad, an amount of FCFA 647 245 000³⁶ was disbursed in 2009 to 667 students on scholarship outside the country. Students abroad who are not on Government scholarship received an amount estimated at FCFA 142 418 109³⁷.

344. In 2010, 95 students received country-specific cooperation fellowships while 1095 others resident in Senegal and Nigeria were offered special assistance; 1189 students also enjoyed additional scholarships, 103 students received tickets and transport access facilities, academic internships and return-home support while 130 non-scholarship students enjoyed support as and when necessary.

345. For students living within the country and studying in State universities, assistance and support provided amounted to FCFA 145 000 000³⁸ in 2009. In 2010, financial support was provided to 38 students in State Universities while 58 000 best students in these same Universities and private universities at the tertiary level received academic excellence awards. It is projected that deserving doctoral students in these same State universities will be encouraged with similar support in order to increase the number of lecturers. Consequently, financial assistance and bursaries offered to students abroad will be reduced.

D- Measures for the Improvement of internal and external performance of the university system

346. As part of the process of improving internal and external performance of the university system, the focus has been directed at strengthening supervision and professionalism in the area of teaching.

Strengthening Supervision

347. In 2010, students in State Universities were taught by 3116 lecturers spread across the schools as follows :

Table 39 : : Distribution of lecturers in 2010³⁹

³⁶ Approximately 988 159 Euros.

³⁷ Approximately 217 432 Euros.

³⁸ Approximately 221,374 Euros

³⁹ According to their administrative status

University	Ranks				Total
	Assistant Lecturers	University Lecturers	Senior Lecturers	Professors	
BUEA	199	139	29	14	381
BAMENDA		01			01
DOUALA	231	251	45	08	535
DSCHANG	142	232	35	18	427
MAROUA	199	29	09	03	240
NGAOUNDERE	67	109	28	11	215
YAOUNDE I	207	437	207	123	974
YAOUNDE II	93	173	48	29	343
TOTAL	1138	1371	401	206	3116

Source : Sigipes/MINESUP

348. From 2008 to 2011, measures were taken to improve staff conditions of service. The Tertiary Institutions Advisory Committee held its meetings on regular basis to enable lecturers to be upgraded and promoted in terms of ranks. Moreover, due emphasis was placed on the rationalization of procedures in order to finalize career management activities of professional lecturers. Furthermore, the institutional support for the programme of mobility of lecturers was continued and this provides opportunities for greater collaboration among lecturers of the various universities.

349. Finally, it is noteworthy to mention the signing of Decree n°2009/121 of 08 April 2009 on the establishment, organization and functioning of a special appropriations account for the modernization of research in State Universities and ensure its immediate implementation. The lecturers and researchers therefore receive financial allocation on quarterly basis in the form of support for the modernization of university research.

E- Promoting professional competence in teaching

350. The developments in this area in paragraphs 295 to 305 of the previous report are relevant. Accordingly, it is pertinent to note that the LMD system has been operational in the universities since 2008. The increase and diversification in the delivery of vocational and technological training were pursued as indicated in the number of universities presented above. Furthermore, projects outlined and implemented to create professionalism were consolidated during the period from 2008 to 2011. Among these projects were: Support Projects for the Technological and Vocational Component of Higher Education (PRO-ACTP), and the Support Programme for the Management of Profitable Initiatives and Professionalization in Higher Education (AGIR) which contributed to the realization of a host of construction works and rehabilitation of Schools and equipping them with educational materials and laboratories.

351. Additional efforts are still needed as statistics indicate that students in the technical and vocational disciplines still account for less than a third of the education provided. For instance, out of 174 267 students registered in 2009, academic courses in the Faculty of Law, Political Science, Economics, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Faculty of Science absorbed 124 892 students.

Chapter 4: THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN CULTURAL LIFE (ARTICLE 17 paragraph 2 of the Charter)

352. From 2008 to 2011, a lot of actions were taken to safeguard the right to culture by way of promoting (Section I) and protecting (Section II) this right.

Section I –Measures on promoting the right to culture

353. The measures revolved around the preservation and development of the heritage (§1) and the protection of the material and moral interests of artistes (§2).

§1 Protecting and developing the heritage

354. The legal framework was improved (A) and similarly, steps were taken for better control of heritage components (B), their development (C) and their security. On this last issue, it must be noted that security is still being provided at the BIDZAR archeological site in Northern Cameroon.

A- Strengthening the Legal Framework

355. During the period under review, Cameroon acceded to some international instruments such as the UNESCO Convention of 17 October 2003, for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and its ratification Decree n° 2008/178 signed on 22 May 2008 following Law n° 2008/004 of 14 April 2008 authorizing the President of the Republic to ratify the said Convention. The ratification of the 2nd Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 on the Protection of Cultural Assets in Case of Armed Conflict as per Decree n° 2010/146 of 06 May, 2010 is part of safeguarding the cultural heritage.

B- Process of controlling aspects of cultural heritage

356. The determination to control aspects of cultural heritage was demonstrated through the launch in June 2010, of a tender for strategic studies aimed at re-launching the general inventory on cultural heritage. Furthermore, an application software was introduced to bolster the database management of sites, monuments and historic figures (GESTPAT).

C- Development of the heritage

The related initiatives concern natural and cultural heritage.

357. **As far as the natural heritage is concerned**, steps have been taken towards the implementation of the UNESCO Convention of 1972 on the protection of the world, cultural and natural heritage regarding the inclusion of the Lobé Falls on the list of world cultural heritage monuments. In line with this, a management plan was designed with the participation of the neighbouring communities. Similarly, Cameroon took part in the 34th Session of the World Heritage Committee meeting held from 25 July to 03 August 2010 in Brasilia in Brazil. In 2011, a sensitization campaign on issues pertaining to this inscription was carried out. Furthermore, Cameroon took part in the 36th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held from 24 June to 6 July, 2012 in Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation). The Tri-National de la Sangha, a vast forest ecosystem measuring 27.000.000 ha containing animal species and exceptional flora (made up of the forests of Cameroon, Congo and the CAR) was also listed among the sites. Moreover, this Committee recommended that urgent measures be taken to protect the Dja Reserve, already listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Monument.

358. On Cultural Heritage, the Government continued to encourage the preservation of royal palaces and provided assistance to the heritage development programme called « The Road to Chieftaincy ». In order to preserve and develop cultural heritage, today, the chieftaincy authorities are being organized around the above-mentioned programme consisting of the cultural development of the highlands of Western Cameroon.

359. Under the decentralized cooperation agreement between the city of Nantes in France and Dschang in Cameroon, cooperation was given a major impetus in October 2006, with the signing of **the Charter of Roads to Chieftaincy** by about twenty traditional rulers in Western Cameroon, and the following measures were scheduled for the period between 2006 and 2010 : the establishment of the « Centre of Civilizations, Heritage Huts and the Garden of Civilizations », the Networking of Traditional Authorities for Enhanced Protection, Development, Capitalization of all Natural and Supra-Human Resources ; Developing Promotion and Communication Tools ; Training Schemes for Local Stakeholders ; and Inventory of Tangible and Intangible Heritage. The Museum of Civilizations has already started its operations in Dschang.

§2- Protection of the material and moral interests of artistes

360. The protection of the material and moral interests of artistes was continued through the design of a National Intellectual Property Development Plan (A), the security of royalties of copyright and related rights (B) and a brainstorming on a new approach in the fight against piracy (C).

A- The design of a National Intellectual Property Development Plan

361. In 2010, the National Intellectual Property Development Plan was formulated. Though the plan has not yet been validated , it envisages, among other priorities, reflections on the possibility creating and operationalizing four collective management companies in Cameroon⁴⁰ ; the training of all stakeholders in literary and artistic property; the formulation of a regulation on sharing among different types of collective management organizations and model contracts for using intellectual works; the establishment of a policy for the reduction of operational costs of the collective management organizations.

362. In addition to this plan, it is envisaged as part of promoting the policy, to clarify eligibility criteria for the Trust Fund to support cultural policy specifically relating to collective management bodies ; increase resources, strengthen manpower and activities of the National Anti-Piracy Commission, prepare a Constitution for Artistes; design a cinematographic code ; design and introduce a national cinematographic production policy and distribute national cultural works; promote and develop scientific culture.

B- Guaranteeing the security of royalties of copyright and related rights

⁴⁰ In this regard, it is noteworthy to mention the creation in December 2008 of an Evaluation Committee on the Implementation of the Law of 19 December, 2000 on copyright and related rights, whose terms of reference, among others, is to evaluate the implementation of the said law, identify the constraints to its implementation and propose concrete solutions to problems of determination, collection and distribution of royalties of copyright and related rights.

363. Guaranteeing the security of royalties of copyright and related rights was carried out through the establishment of the Arbitration Committee, centralization of funds and the basis of collection.

1) Establishment of the Arbitration Committee

364. In accordance with the provisions of Article 62 of Law N° 2000/011 of 19 December, 2000 relating to copyright and related rights, the Arbitration Committee was established by Decision N°0055/MINCULT/CAB of 27 May 2011. The Arbitration Committee is responsible for taking conclusive decisions on tax levels and payment modalities of revenue from phonogrammes, and putting them into circulation for commercial purposes where an agreement has not been reached between the competent collective management organization responsible for determining the level of deduction and the persons using these phonogrammes for commercial purposes.

2) Centralisation of funds collected

365. To address the high rate of loss of funds from copyright royalties, the Ministry of Arts and Culture took measures to secure the royalties. To this effect, the Ministry of Arts and Culture signed Decision n°004/MINCULT/CAB of 07 September, 2010 with the aim of centralizing the funds and avoiding possible misappropriation. Accordingly, a special deposit account was opened at the SGBC, in order to receive payments for the copyright royalty account.

3) Improving the taxable base

366. In order to improve the taxable base of the royalties, emphasis was placed on sensitization of the main users and on the need for payment of royalties. Thus, in 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed, under the supervision of the Standing Committee for Mediation and Control of Collective Management Organizations on Copyrights and Related Rights⁴¹, between the National Union of Drinking Bar Operators of Cameroon (SYNEDEBOC) and the Cameroonian Civil Society of Musical Art (SOCAM), with the aim of collecting from the union members a written authorization to allow Breweries to deduct the amount of royalties owed as copyrights and related rights from their discounts. The implementation of the negotiation with the Cameroon Breweries Ltd (SABC) led to the payment of an amount of CFAF 175.000.000 as royalties from the drinking bar operators in June 2010.

367. The negotiations continued with the Customs Administration, public and private radio and television stations as well as cable distributors. The priority was focused on the main users as they constitute the major contributors to the special deposit fund.

C- New Approach for Combating Piracy

368. The persistence of the phenomenon of piracy is, among others, due to the fact that the original works of art are not always available, or even if they are available, the prices are always

⁴¹ In order to further fine-tune the Cameroonian system of protecting creative artists, the Government created a body in charge of mediation and control of collective management companies by Decision N°00410/ MINCULT/CAB of 3 June 2004. This body called « Standing Mediation and Control Committee of Collective Management Organizations on Copyrights and Related Rights »(CPMC) is tasked with :

- Ensuring the organization and supervision of consultation and negotiations between the collective management organization for royalties and related rights or between the latter and the users ;
- Ensuring, on behalf of and for the Ministry of Culture, the overall control of collective management bodies and in particular, respecting standards in terms of collection and distribution of royalties.

not within the purchasing power of the average Cameroonian citizen (currently CFA F2.500). Given the low purchasing power of the consumer of artistic works, a project was initiated for the establishment of a musical works production unit.

- 369.** The creation of this unit is intended to reduce the cost of production of musical works to make them available to the majority of citizens and to propose a price that falls within the purchasing power of Cameroonians. Negotiations are on-going with the Financial Administration for a budget allocation for this project.

§2- Measures for the promotion of the right to culture

- 370.** The promotion of cultural creativity and heritage (A), the mobilization of agents of cultural dissemination (B) the development of cooperation (C) were the key priorities in promoting the right to culture.

A) Promotion of cultural creativity and heritage

- 371.** Within the context of promoting creativity, the Government has a tool for encouraging the creative artists in literature and arts; this refers to the Trust Fund in support of cultural policy. This account enables the State, among others, to award prizes to best works of art after organizing a competition in the different aspects of creative works. It must be noted that various prizes were awarded in May 2010 after competitions were organized following festivities marking the 50th independence anniversary and reunification of Cameroon.
- 372.** On the protection of heritage, « a heritage village » was built in January 2010 in the National Museum Gardens 2010, and it is made up of specimens illustrating the diversity of traditional architecture in Cameroon. Moreover, vacation workshops were organized in 2009 to, among others, initiate the youth into cultural trades, jobs and national languages.

B- Mobilization of agents for the dissemination of culture

The dissemination was carried out by way of cultural celebrations and institutional activities (cultural and media spaces).

1) Cultural activities

- 373.** In December, 2008, the State organized the 7th Edition of the National Festival of Arts and Culture, (FENAC) in Maroua in the Far North Region. Moreover, a lot of cultural activities, festivals and meetings were organized by groups of artistes, local communities or cultural entrepreneurs in the various domains such as theatre, cinema or music. To promote excellence in creative arts, production and dissemination of intellectual works, the Government, in accordance with the provisions of Decree n°2001/389 of 5 December 2001 on the establishment of a Trust Fund in support of its cultural policy which receives an annual allocation of 1.000, 000,000 (one billion) francs, provided a lot of subventions for these initiatives. The following initiatives benefitted from this funding : the Yaoundé Caricature and Humour Festival, FESCARHY (2008, 2009,2010) ; The Chocolate Drama (2009) ; the Festi-BIKUTSI, (2008, 2009, 2010) ; the « Urban Colours » (2009, 2010, 2011) ; the « Rencontres des arts de la rue » (2008) ; Miss Cameroun, (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011) ; The NGONDO Cultural Festival (2008, 2009,2010) ; the Beach Festival of the Kribi Documentary (2009, 2010) ; the Cinema Festival « MISS MEBINGA », which promotes films produced by women (2009,2010) ; International Festival On Film Blend (FIFMI) Ngaoundéré, (2009,2011) ;The Short Film Night of Douala

(2009,2010); The Festival « Yaoundé tout court » which presents short films (2009, 2010,2011); the NGOUON Cultural Festival of the Western Region; the MEDUMBA Cultural Festival » of Bangangté, Western Region (2009, 2010,2011); TOKNA MASSA Cultural Festival in the Far North Region (2010); The International Theatrical Meetings of Cameroon (RETIC) (2008, 2009,2010);

2) Broadcast Channels

374. Both the media and the cultural spaces made their contributions. The radios and televisions, the print media, both public and private devote a growing amount of space for cultural dissemination. Moreover, **the network of public libraries is** gradually developing. Eight out of ten regions currently have a public library. Furthermore, between 2008 and 2010, the State supported the establishment of five municipal libraries (Ndikinimeki, Kiki, Nkol Mefou, Mvangan, Elat) and financed the furnishing of the Francis BEBEY Cultural Centre in Yaoundé and the Community Library in Batibo. An almost free service is offered by the public and private libraries, particularly at the Central Public Library. Thus, access is free for children of up to nine (9) years old; the amount payable every year is CFA F2.000 F for pupils and students CFAF 3.000 every year for the rest of the public.

375. Regarding movie-theatres, the number of movie and cultural theatres is a deplorable as they are practically non-existent since the closure of the last cinema halls in January 2009 Cameroon. To address this shortfall, the authorities took the following actions :

- 1- The gradual building of Cultural Centres, with the objective of providing every regional capital with a Cultural Centre;
- 2- The sensitization of heads of the local decentralized authorities on the need to provide spaces for cultural activities in their development plans for the respective localities, according to the laws and regulations in force under their decentralization programmes ;
- 3- The opening of negotiations with cultural operators since January 2010, upon the instruction of the Prime Minister and Head of Government with the aim of motivating them to create or re-open movie-theatres and cinema halls ;
- 4- The acquisition of a podium bus for the dissemination of cultural shows all over the nation in 2010.

C- Development of cooperation

376. In connection with this plan, Agreements have been signed with different countries and international exchanges developed.

Among these cultural cooperation agreements signed with bilateral partners, the following may be mentioned:

- Cultural Cooperation Agreement with Tunisia (Tunis 2008) ;
- Cultural Cooperation Agreement with Brazil signed in May 2010 in Brasilia ;

377. Furthermore, the implementation of the Cultural Agreement with China, (2008-2011 period) was also signed. Other Agreements are nearing finalization or at the negotiation stage , particularly with Gabon, the Republic of South Africa , Nigeria , Senegal, Chad, Libya, Central African Republic , Egypt ...

378. On international cultural exchanges, Cameroon participated in international cultural meetings and received international cultural troupes.

On participation in international cultural shows, the following are worth noting:

- The Pan-African Festival of Culture, the 2nd Edition of which took place in Algeria in 2009 ;
- The Pan African Music Festival (FESPAM) in 2009 in Congo Brazzaville;
- The Pan African Festival of Cinema and Television of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, (2009,2011) ;
- The International Day for the Commemoration of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade organized by the United Nations Organization (UNO) (2009 and 2011). During the first edition held in New York, USA, on the theme «Breaking the silence. Beating the Drums », Cameroon presented the drums ;
- The World Festival of Negro Arts (FESMAN) held in Dakar, Senegal in 2010 ;
- The Festival of Islamic Culture in Algeria (TLEMCEM) 2011 ; where Cameroon organized two exhibitions in Plastic Arts and Traditional Costumes;
- The National Ballet of Cameroon in Japan, from 6 September to 1st October 2010.
- Book Exhibitions and Fairs (Paris, Bologna, Casablanca, Algiers) in 2009 and 2010.

379. On receiving foreign troupes, the following can be mentioned :

- The show presented by the Chinese Martial Arts and Artistic Troupe « WUSHU » and Cameroonian Arts at the Yaoundé Sports Hall in May 2010.
- The show by the Chinese Artistic Drama Company from « SHENZHEN » in 2011 ;
- The Korean Drama Troupe « Little Angels » at the Palais des Congrès in Yaoundé in July 2011 on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War.

Chapter 5: THE RIGHT TO A SATISFACTORY STANDARD OF LIVING

380. To ensure a satisfactory standard of living for persons living within its jurisdiction, the Government focused its actions on safeguarding the right to food sufficiency between 2008 and 2011 (Section I), access to water (Section II) and the right to adequate housing (Section III).

Section I: The right to adequate food

381. After the food crisis of February 2008, urgent measures were taken to address the situation. Paragraphs 372-1 to 380-2 of the previous periodic report are relevant in this regard. The problems encountered in the implementation of this right are related to inadequate national production ; the unavailability of some foodstuffs in some regions due to shortages, speculations and price hikes, the dire living conditions of the rural communities , the low access to financing and the market, the remoteness of production basins, poor land yields; all these are factors that

cause massive importation of consumer products such as flour, rice, fish to the tune of CFAF 500 billion in 2009, representing 7 times higher than the amount in 1994.

- 382.** On 26 June, 2009, after the Council of Ministers meeting, the President of the Republic emphasized particularly on accelerating growth in the rural communities and consolidating food security. Accordingly, apart from the urgent measures taken, the State initiated a policy to ensure availability of food on sustainable basis (§1) and access to food (§2).

§1- Measures to guarantee the availability of food

Availability takes a dual dimension, both quantitative (A) and qualitative (B).

A- Quantitative availability.

- 383.** To guarantee the availability of food, the prioritized option was placed within the context of DSCE for the period from 2010 to 2020. It consists of modernizing the productive machinery by: establishing a fertilizer production unit, putting into effect the construction of a tractor-assembly plant project which has actually taken off, rehabilitating seed farms, building markets and bulk purchase points for agro-pastoral and fishery products and strengthening the financing mechanism of rural activities by opening an agricultural bank.
- 384.** These actions are geared towards developing agricultural, animal, fishery and forest production. In this regard, the budget allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development was not adjusted in the same way as way as other sectors. Thus, from 2009 to 2011, the breakdown of the Public Investment Budget (PIB) in billions of CFA francs is broken down as follows: CFAF 25 771 billion in 2009, CFAF 29 658 in 2010 and CFAF 28 583 in 2011. The budget slipped back slightly by 1075 between 2010-2011, a drop of 3.62%.
- 385.** In the area of **agricultural products**, the development of the sector is characterized by three priorities. This includes development of the rice sector, maize and cassava cultivation and promoting intensive agriculture in promising sectors (dessert-type bananas, plantain, sugar, sorghum, palm oil, cocoa, coffee, cotton etc.). It is worth noting that the different initiatives towards the promotion of locally-produced cereals and tubers are a sine qua non and an alternative to the consumption of imported rice.
- 386.** In this regard, the major agricultural sectors were provided with an overall budget allocation of 9,450 billion out of which 4,740 billion was for industrial crops and 4,710 billion for food crops. In 2011, this allocation was increased to 14, 945 billion with 6, 410 for industrial crops and 8, 535 billion for food crops.
- 387.** Emphasis was also laid on sustainable development of agricultural production. In 2010, 1247 producer groups received assistance with 706 of them receiving CFAF 1 413 370 000 while 106 umbrella organizations also received financial support. In the rice sector, nearly 10 tonnes of improved rice seeds were supplied to 2500 rice farmers on 30 June 2010 at the headquarters of the Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD) in Yaoundé,. Together with experts, 36 producer groups tested and approved these seeds. Thirty (30) tonnes of improved seeds were produced between May 2009 and April 2010. The same applies to the plantain sector. In 2011, CFAF 950 million was allocated to producer organizations as assistance to 11 857 to small, medium and large-scale producers.

- 388.** Concerning the **development of livestock production**, the policy is focused on improving short-term livestock rearing (poultry farming, pig farming, small ruminant farming and non-conventional breeding) and establishing and developing medium and large-scale ranches and cattle rearing. From 2009, as part of the implementation of this policy, MINEPIA developed a Master Plan for Livestock Development in Cameroon to address the shortfalls in livestock production, thereby prioritizing the sector-by-sector approach which reflected in the implementation of priority programmes specifically targeted at the poultry, dairy, pork and meat sectors including non-conventional breeding. These programmes produced the following results :
- 389.** **389. Concerning dairy production**, which includes both dairy products from local cows and products manufactured from imported milk, it can be said that imports of dairy products increased by 4 437.45 tonnes, that is 20.19% over the previous year's level. This rise can be attributed to a considerable growth in the importation of liquid milk as a result of growing demand by producers of yoghurts, iced creams and other dairy products. The local production of milk, to a large extent, remained a traditional activity. This industry received a budgetary allocation of CFA 425 million in 2009 under the project dubbed "*The Small Holder Dairy Development Project (SDDP)*". In 2010, 47 GICs and a cooperative comprising 300 members also received financial support. These incentives bolstered the production level to 732 tonnes of milk in 2010, .
- 390.** **390. On the production of pork**, pig farming was catastrophic because of the African swine fever at the beginning of 2010, and the delay in addressing the problem through protective measures in certain localities led to huge losses, in particular the systematic slaughter of 7166 animals, the prohibition of all forms of trading activities with all regions in the North as well as free grazing. The adoption of protective measures up to November 2011 did not help in repopulating the lost stocks.
- 391.** Besides these infections, red diseases of epidemic proportions severely threatened this animal production sector and it was also beset with other difficulties such as limited access to financing, high cost of inputs, low productivity of locally-bred pork, free range grazing, lack of operational infrastructure, inflation due to the effects of animal diseases in the North and Far North regions and poor organization of operators.
- 392.** Pig farming was one of the few sectors which did not achieve its production target in 2011, that is 45.000 tonnes. The sector rather recorded a shortfall of -42 080.82 tonnes while in 2010, the 29 665 farmers who received from the budgetary allocation as part of the **Pig Sector Development Programme (PDFP)** produced 417 000 pigs.
- 393.** **With regard to beef**, the production reached 102 964,46 tonnes in 2011, exceeding the set target of 15.000 tonnes by 87 964.46 tonnes.
- 394.** **On poultry production:** this industry is developing around major cities as semi-intensive and intensive farming with variations depending on the farms concerned. Several broiler production farms of more than 20 000 birds exist within locations where there are farms with a bird capacity of between 200 and 1000 birds. The inputs and products that go into the preparation of the animal feed are imported on a very large scale. The importation of one-day chicks increased, bringing the quantity of chicks to 347 000, or a rise of 8.26%. In 2011, Cameroon produced **276 242,992 tonnes** of poultry meat, thus going beyond the set target of

45.000 tonnes. Besides these farms, village poultry farming is also targeted for assistance under the **Assistance Project for the Development of Village Poultry Farming (PADAV)**. In 2010, the budgetary resources allocated to this project increased to CFA F 266 million. Forty thousand (40 000) breeders received assistance and their total output was 10 million birds.

In 2011, egg production reached 153 298 615, far exceeding the target which was set at 15 000 000 eggs.

395. On the production of small ruminant meat, in 2011 the production increased to about 1 705, 329 tonnes. The rearing of goats is undertaken in all parts of the country according to the specific food habits of the population. The production of goat meat for 2011 was about 2 628,804 tonnes.

396. Concerning fish production, the targets set for 2011 were 10 000 tonnes for the production of fish from industrial fishing with at least 5% from small-scale fishing. The availability of fish products is ensured through production of the different forms of fishing (industrial fish farming, small scale coastal fish farming, inland fishing and aquaculture). These productions are complemented by imports. In 2011, the national production, rose to 175 000 tonnes with 7 000 tonnes from industrial production, 93 000 tonnes from inland fishing, 75 000 tonnes from small-scale coastal fishing and 1 000 tonnes from aquaculture. Imports of fish products stood at 196 000 tonnes.

397. On the production of honey, this aspect is still dependent on traditional techniques which vary from region to region. **There is however Development Assistance Project for the Bee-keeping Sector (PADFA)**. This project was financed with an amount of CFA F 67 million in 2010. This year, 165 GICs in five regions, or about 29 665 farmers benefitted and produced about 804 tonnes of honey. In 2011, the production target was 1200 tonnes of honey out of which 150 tonnes could be exported on account of its quality. The quantity of honey harvested from 59 120 beehives was about 750 810 litres, that is about 8 441 tonnes of honey.

B- Qualitative availability of the product.

398. To ensure that quality products are provided to the consumer, the option of putting a label on manufactured products was adopted as part of the standardization process.

399. Concerning the labeling of some manufactured products, a Decree dated 18 March 2010 set out the modalities for the implementation of the label. Its implementation should assist in combating counterfeiting of manufactured products so as to protect the health of the consumer.

400. Standardization Aspect, the Standards and Quality Board (ANOR) took steps to formulate standards and organize quality controls and certify product standards regarding imports and exports. Thus, agro-food, fruit and vegetable industries are part of the areas where new standards were developed. Furthermore, the standards for wheat flour and refined vegetable oils were reviewed to enable the products to be enriched in vitamins. This food fortification operation actually took off on 30 September 2011. The issue was to address the worsening nutritional standards for vulnerable groups as they had been further aggravated by the crisis of the 1990's.

§2).Measures to guarantee access to food products

401. Different types of actions were taken to ensure access to food products but these actions did not always produce all the expected outcomes.

A- Type of actions

402. These actions were focused essentially on the control of distribution channels and on strengthening the institutional framework (1) and the facilitation of access to everyday consumer products (2).

1- Strengthening the Institutional framework

403. It was done through the creation of a National Observatory of the Consumer Products Sector (a) and the MIRAP (b).

a. The establishment of a National Observatory of Consumer Products Sector

404. The National Consumer Products Sector Observatory, which is a « *watchdog and assistance body for decision-making under the strategy of ensuring regular supply of the national market with consumer products* »⁴², was established by Presidential Decree in June 2010. Its terms of reference, among others, are to :⁴³

- Propose a list of consumer products in line with the consumption needs and habits of the population both at the regional and national levels ;
- Collect, collate and use all the information on production, use, importation, distribution and marketing of consumer products ;
- Consider and provide advisory opinion on all issues relating to the constitution of regulatory stocks of consumer products ;
- Draw up a periodic inventory of supplies on the domestic market and propose to the Government measures likely to prevent shortages;
- Design an organizational plan of unstructured sectors.

b. Establishment of the MIRAP

405. The Mission for the Regulation and Supply of Consumer Products was established by Decree n°2011 /019 of 1st February, 2011. The role of this body is to constitute security stocks, initiate the establishment of model-shops for the sale of consumer products in collaboration with economic operators of all sectors and concerned inter-trade organizations including the management of periodic and street markets.

406. The list of consumer products to be purchased or imported by MIRAP was drawn up by Order n°058/PM of 08 March 2011. They include cereals, tubers, raw products, fruits and raw vegetables, wheat flour, vegetable oil, pasta products, sugar, household salt, eggs for consumption, chicken, frozen fish, beef, pork, toilet soap, domestic gas, Portland cement, iron rods and corrugated roofing sheets.

407. In 2011, 2012 and even in 2013, the MIRAP organized mobile caravans for the promotional sale of consumer products, street markets and periodic model markets. Before the establishment

⁴² : Article 2 of Decree n°2010/1743/PM of 19 June 2010 mentioned above.

⁴³ : See Article 3 of the Decree above for the enumeration of all the terms of reference of the Observatory.

and implementation of the Observatory and the MIRAP, these priority areas had already been explored by other stakeholders in order to facilitate access to consumer products.

2- Facilitation of access to consumer products

408. Apart from controls and crackdown on fraud, facilitating access to day-to-day consumer products consisted of providing support for structuring the distribution channels. This assistance was provided towards the reactivation of periodic markets in the rural areas with a view to ensuring distribution of agricultural production, providing support for the supply of consumer products and promoting local sales at reduced prices in market stalls.

B- Impact of measures taken

409. In spite of the entry into force of presidential measures and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Trade and economic operators, price levels of some manufactured commodities and essential goods did not follow immediately. Consumers started feeling a slight improvement in the sharp price hikes so many months later.

410. The implementation of these measures was hampered by many bottlenecks. These constraints related to the poor internal distribution channels and the global financial crisis. The problem to be addressed in the agro-pastoral sector is still daunting and the deficit in local production still huge. The solution to the problem caused by food insecurity cannot be narrowed down to only production issues. The availability, stability and accessibility of agricultural products must also be taken into consideration. In view of the remoteness of certain locations, all the regular supply and restocking strategies for the main markets become ineffective.

SECTION II – The right to potable water and electricity

411. It is worth mentioning that the level of access to sanitation facilities was 15% in 2008 while access to drinking water in the urban communities was 29%. Under the DSCE, the Government intends to enhance access to potable water in the urban communities by 50% by 2015, then 75% by 2020. The target set for access to sanitation facilities is 35% by 2015, then 60% by 2020. The strategy is also centred on urban water systems and the village water system.

412. All in all, the Government made efforts between 2008 and 2011, to provide the population with access to drinking water in spite of the difficulties encountered in this sector. Therefore, to deal with the problem of shortages, urgent measures were taken to facilitate access to drinking water both in the urban communities (§1) and in the rural areas (§2).

§1- Actions taken in urban and sub-urban communities

413. The main actions taken by the Government in these communities are as follows :

- Rehabilitation of the production and distribution network of Mefou-Messa and making it operational ;
- Rehabilitation and extension of production stations in Edéa, Bertoua and Ngaoundéré townships ;
- Drilling of one hundred (100) boreholes, five(5) mini- drinking water pumps , and installation of sixty (60) tarpaulins in Yaoundé and its environs ;
- Implementation of the second phase of strengthening and improving the drinking water supply project in Douala. This action finds concrete expression in the construction of a raw water intake point, a reservoir of treated water covering an area of 10 000m³, laying of 1200mm pipes for treated water and commencement of construction works of overhead water tanks ;

- Rehabilitation, strengthening and extension of drinking water supply systems to fifty-two (52) centres ;
- Construction and rehabilitation of 341 water infrastructural facilities (boreholes, water carriage systems) in all the regions.

§2- Actions in rural communities

414. They are presented as follows :

- Completion of the 5th phase of the water supply project in the North and Far North Regions. In this regard, 189 boreholes were completed; 57 in the North and 132 in the Far North ;
- Completion of 88 simplified water production networks in four (04) regions in particular: Western (13), North West (16), South (09) and South West (13).
- The action taken by territorial local government bodies in drilling boreholes in the major cities and big villages is worth mentioning.

415. Other measures were also taken to ensure the intensification of subsidized water connections. Thus, in 2012, 3 500 new metres acquired at very affordable prices by consumers were connected to the water distribution network in Douala and Yaoundé.

SECTION III The right to adequate housing

416. As previously indicated, the improvement in living conditions of the people of Cameroon, should, as a matter of course, be achieved, first and foremost, through access to decent housing, an issue which takes centre stage in the concerns of public authorities whose determination is to reduce the section of the population still confronted with difficulties in accessing the right to housing.

417. In Cameroon, all the statistics available indicate that one million (1 000 000) units may be needed to address the current deficit in housing. According to the 2007 national profile of Cameroon compiled by the UN-Habitat, 67% of the people live in slums and 80% of land transactions are carried out informally. It is to reverse this trend that public policies aimed at promoting access to decent housing by a large majority of the population, were designed by public authorities to launch a large-scale programme for the construction of 10 000 social housing units in three years with effect from 2009, at the same time as the development of 50 000 plots of serviced and identified plots with the assistance of professionals and stakeholders in the housing industry, including private initiatives.

418. To promote the emergence of this sector which has remained in the doldrums for such a long period of time , a number of legislative and regulatory texts have been initiated by the Government, considered and voted by Parliament, then promulgated by the Head of State, who in addition to that, has completed the existing legal arsenal by the relevant regulatory texts to promote the emergence of jobs in this sector . Hence, a number of private initiatives and new job sectors accompany these efforts by Government.

419. Moreover, the State has stressed particularly on the protection of victims of urban restructuring and renovation works by avoiding forced evictions as much as possible. To carry out this plan, resettlement or compensation plans have been initiated anytime such urban development plans or projects of general public interest have been undertaken.

§1) – Deepening the normative standards on the legal security of tenure

- 420.** In 2005, the Government undertook broad-ranging reforms on conditions for land title acquisition. Thus, from 2008 to 2011, there was a noticeable increase in the number of land titles from 125 000 in 2008 to 143 308 in 2010.
- 421.** The estate agency profession was regulated in 2007 and the reform of legal texts continued with the consolidation of the legal security of tenure which is an essential factor in the right to housing. Thus, in 2009, the sale of real estate to be developed and lease-option agreements were brought under control. Under this scheme, Law N°2009/009 on the sale of real estate to be developed was promulgated on 10 July 2009, and its implementing Decree n°2009/1726/PM signed on 4 September 2009. Similarly, Law N°2009/010 on lease-option agreements pertaining to real estate was promulgated on 10 July, 2009, and its implementing Decree N°2009/1727/PM signed in September, 2009.
- 422.** This legal arsenal was deepened in 2010 and 2011, by the adoption of Law n°2010/022 of 21st December, 2010 relating to co-ownership of buildings and its implementing decree was signed on 11 May 2010⁴⁴. On the same day, Decree n°2011/1132 was signed laying down the conditions for accessing and practicing the profession of an estate agent. It is important to mention Order n°0001/E/2/MINDUH of 20 January, 2010 laying down the rules governing the general terms of reference for the promotion of real estate development. In 2012, the legal framework was strengthened by two key texts: Decree n° 2012/1870/PM of 04 July, 2012 laying down the modalities for the issuance of title deeds as part of co-ownership of developed property as well as Order n°007/E/2/MINHDU.

§2- Real Estate Development

- 423.** Concerning the initiatives on real estate development, the State, private operators and professionals in the sector have embarked on related activities. From 2009, the Government initiated a programme for the construction of 10 000 social housing units and the development of 50 000 plots by 2013. The pilot phase of this operation was launched in Yaoundé on 23 December, 2009, by the Prime Minister and Head of Government, and in Douala on 05 February 2010. They touch on the provision of 1300 and 1175 housing units respectively. The Government has instructed that units constructed under the pilot phase be put on sale. In 2012, with the support of the Chinese Cooperation, the Government once again, launched a project for the construction of 3000 social housing units to be extended to other cities in Cameroon. Works are ongoing in Yaoundé and Douala.
- 424.** The deepening of the legal framework had a positive impact on private real estate development as initiatives increased. In this regard, the initiatives carried out by SOPRIN Company are worth mentioned. This Company developed the Cité des Cadres which comprises a total of 770 housing units built in Yaoundé. Since 2010, 210 housing units have been handed over to buyers⁴⁵ and other housing units have been made available and are ready for occupancy with the commencement of the sale of units initiated under the first phase of the Government programme.
- 425.** Apart from this initiative, under its three-year development project from 2010 to 2013, this Company plans to embark on the following projects in the city of Yaoundé : the project dubbed the Cité du Sappelli, located in a location called Nkongoa, relates to the construction of 3000

⁴⁴Decree n° 2011/113/PM of 11 May 2011 was issued to lay down the modalities for the implementation of this law on calculating the net usable floor space on a co-owned plot of land.

⁴⁵On 16 February 2010, The Minister of Trade of Cameroon, accompanied by his Tunisian counterpart, visited this project located at the Ahala suburb. These personalities expressed their satisfaction with the developments regarding the project.

social housing units, the project dubbed, the Cité du Baobab located at a suburb called Febe Village concerns the construction of 1200 residential housing units and the project referred to as « Clos pavillonnaire Saint-Victor » concerns the construction of 1800 housing units in the Ekoumdou suburb.

426. Another significant initiative which deserves mention here is one by the Company called Authentic Developer Corporation (ADC)⁴⁶, which in 2010 developed 100 housing units at Nkongoa, located on the Mfou road as part of a more ambitious programme of building 1200 housing units.
427. As part of private initiatives, it is pertinent to mention the project on the construction of 900 social housing units at Leboudi in the Lékié Department, Central Region by a real estate company based in Leboudi, the foundation stone of which was laid on 04 February 2009 by the Minister of Housing and Urban Development. This project covers the development of 1800 housing units. The Moroccan Company ADOHA also undertook to build social housing units. The related negotiations are on-going with the competent Minister.
428. To achieve a greater involvement of the communities in the real estate development initiatives and to limit any violations of legislation governing lands, the Government is gradually promoting concerted development strategy by bringing on board real estate developers and the traditional communities. It is within this framework that one can situate the concerted development project in the Bonatoumbè zone, between the Douala Urban Community which established the Société d'Aménagement de Douala (SAD-CUD) on the one hand, and the Traditional Authorities of the Bonatoumbè Zone, on the other hand. The works of VRD, on electrification and land allocation were completed in 2010 on the site provided.
429. Moreover, the State encouraged initiatives aimed at personal development of property by offering a lot of incentives to Housing Cooperatives and Real Estate Development Companies in collaboration with civil society.

§3- Protection of victims of restructuring operations and urban renovation

430. From 2008 to 2011, urban restructuring and renovation works were undertaken by certain decentralized territorial authorities. An assessment of the initial experiences revealed serious social consequences leading to the review of the normative framework by providing greater protection for the victims (A) in addition to efforts in respect of compensation for the victims (B).

A- Review of the normative framework

431. In view of the impact of the urban restructuring and renovation works on the population, the normative framework was reviewed by Decree N° 2008/0738/PM of 23 April 2008 on the organization of procedures and modalities for the development of lands. The plan was to make the previous legislation more flexible by incorporating the human rights dimension to ensure that no person will be homeless following the land development activities. In this regard, the Decree identifying accompanying measures such as resettlement and compensation and extension of benefits to persons who do not have land titles.

B – Efforts made in the area of compensation

⁴⁶Source : MINDUH

- 432.** The local authorities which carried out restructuring and renovation works in urban communities made efforts to pay compensation to the victims. Thus, in 2009, the Communauté Urbaine de Yaoundé paid compensation to the population as well as institutions which had land titles or permits to build but were dispossessed of their lands or ejected from their lands as part of the construction works on the Olembe-Etoudi road⁵¹ as well as people on the Olezoa-Officers' Mess road. In 2010, as part of the development of the Olembe access road which fell under the Government programme for the construction of social housing units, compensation amounting to CFAF 197 million⁴⁷ was paid to 50 families who were victims of the expropriation exercise and to those whose landed assets were destroyed.
- 433.** Moreover, the operations carried out by the Douala Urban Community, an incident which bordered on the right to housing⁴⁸ of the population occupying the affected sites gave rise to payment of compensation to the victims. This issue applies to the water and sanitation pilot project dubbed GTZ/CUD, under which an amount of 3 250 000 (three million two hundred and fifty thousand) francs was disbursed as compensation to the population affected by the operation in locations such as Mambanda (6 cases) and Brazzaville (1 case). In this regard, the compensation paid was limited to victims who had land titles or enjoyed occupancy rights. The review of the normative framework helped to broaden the scope by incorporating social aspects into the urban restructuring and renovation works.

Chapter 6: PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY (ARTICLE 18 Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Charter)

- 434.** The family, the basic unit of society, appears in Cameroon as the point of departure for sustainable development. To this effect, it is necessary to ensure the harmony and social cohesion of the unit. In this perspective, a Ministry responsible for Women's Affairs and the Family was established in 2004 by the Head of State. The aim is to present the missions, strategies and measures introduced to strengthen harmony, stability and well-being within Cameroonian families.
- 435.** In order to further consolidate its multi-sectoral policy in the area of the preservation of the family unit, efforts have been made by the State of Cameroon between 2008 and 2013 in order to ensure that the family has the best conditions for development.

SECTION I: INSTITUTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL ACTIVITIES OF THE STATE IN THE AREA OF THE PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY

- 436.** In 2004, after the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Family (instituted by the UN General Assembly through Resolution 47/237 of 20 September, 1993 which decided to celebrate the international day of the family on 15 May of every year, as from 1994),

⁴⁷23 395 250 FCFA paid to 32 persons who had land titles and /or building permits.

⁴⁸Other operations which did not forcibly affect the buildings were managed through payment of compensations. For instance, that was the case during the rehabilitation of the Roger Milla Avenue. An amount of thirteen million five hundred and fifty thousand CFA francs (13 550 000) was paid as compensation to the population for the exhumation and reburial of some mortal remains including some traditional remains at the Ndogbati cemetery.

the Head of State, per Decree No. 2004/320 of 08 December, 2004, established the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Family. This ministry has the following missions, among others:

- ensure the increase of guarantees for women in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, and
- study and propose strategies and measures aimed at strengthening harmony within the family.

Consequently, Decree No. 2005/008 of 29 March, 2005 established two Directorates for the promotion and advancement of the Cameroonian family, namely: the Directorate for the Well-being of the Family and the Directorate for the Economic Advancement of the Family.

437. In view of its terms of reference, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Family is making efforts to ensure the implementation of the national policy on the protection of the family. The main outlines of the national policy on the family (§1) and some outcomes of activities undertaken will be presented §2.

Paragraph I: Broad Outlines of the National Policy on the Family

A- Formulation of the Legal Framework : The Family Code

438. Given the multiplicity of tribes and scattered rights, the protection of the family should be done through the adoption of a legislation which will govern relations between members of the family and their assets.

439. In this perspective, a code on persons and the family, which will target the development of Cameroonian families, is being formulated. Already, a legislation exists for diverse categories of persons who constitute the family (women, children, older persons, the physically challenged.....).

B- Formulation of Programmes of Action

I- In the Area of Health

440. The formulation of the sectoral « Woman-Family » plan for the fight against HIV, AIDS and STIs was adopted for the period 2007-2010. This plan is aimed at catering for persons living with HIV and is expected to encourage the consistency of interventions in all the Regions of the country. It was structured around three priorities, namely :

- prevention of new infections among women and within the family;
- strengthening of coordination, partnership, monitoring and evaluation, and
- counselling and nutritional care of persons living with HIV, infected persons, families affected by HIV and members of the communities in the area.

441. A third plan was introduced for the period 2010-2012. While retaining the same objectives, a third sectoral plan is being formulated for the period 2013-2015.

II- Pre-nuptial, Marriage and Family Life Education

442. This programme, which was initiated for young couples and families, is a means of preventing problems among couples and families. It contributes to the fight against non-marital

cohabitation and the education of couples and families in order to bring about harmony in families and communities. It is an instrument for good governance of the « Family » institution and the promotion of human rights and, indeed, education on social peace and sustainable social development.

443. Thanks to this programme, we have witnessed the conscientization of the youth on marriage and the reduction of non-marital co-habitation through the celebration of mass marriages, the fight against the dangers of cyber-marriages, support for the issuance of birth certificates to children of school-going age born out of wedlock, education of families on human rights, peace and the fight against social ills as well as spousal assault and domestic violence.

III- Anti-Poverty Assistance Programme for Persons and Families facing Poverty-related Problems

444. The mechanisms put in place for this programme include: the support system for rural women and the introduction of a support mechanism for poor women in the Women's Development Centres

Paragraph II: Outcomes of Activities Undertaken

A- As part of assistance and the fight against poverty

445. The mechanisms introduced include:

- **The support arrangement in aid of rural women** which leads to the introduction of a programme to provide small equipment and agricultural inputs (rickshaws, hoes, cutlasses, fertilizers and improved seeds) to associations and GICs engaged in agricultural activities in order to reduce drudgery and to encourage the improvement of their productivity. The annual budget of this programme is FCFA 70,000,000 (i.e. about 110 thousand euros). This amount is supplemented by physical and agricultural inputs provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and other development partners, particularly those collaborating with certain companies.
- **Introduction of a Support System for Poor Women in at least 70 Centres for the Development of Women and the Family (CPFF).** This project, which aims at combating poverty, was introduced in all the Regions of Cameroon. Since January, 2004, it has been financed as part of the Fund of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC). The fund is put at the disposal of learners (women and young girls) of the CPFF who have ended training for self-employment in the areas of agriculture, project management, clothing, hotel and food industry, ICT, and social assistance in the form of revolving credits. This fund is credited with FCFA 600,000,000 (i.e. nearly 100 thousand euros).
- **The Arrangement for Aid and Assistance to Destitute and Needy Persons and Families.** This annual support of about FCFA 190, 000,000 is available for:
 - financing of income-generating activities of poor family heads in order to improve their production capacity;
 - educational assistance by way of the payment of school fees, purchasing of school supplies, school placement for pupils and students from low-income families;
 - grants of FCFA 50,000 per pupil and student from poor families, i.e. those in the charge of destitute and needy widows;
 - medical assistance in the form of the payment of prescription drugs, medical treatment and examination fees and free consultation for needy or destitute widows;

- assistance with public baby garments in cases of multiple births or for young girls and women from poor families or who are victims of unwanted pregnancies;
- administrative and legal assistance to widows, women and families whose rights have been violated;
- support and assistance for the celebration of mass marriages for future couples from vulnerable segments of society and the issuance of birth certificates for children born out of wedlock. Since 2010, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Family has been releasing FCFA 1,500,000 (i.e. 2,300 euros) annually to this area, and
- strengthening of the capacity of women, learning of petty income-generating trades, or training through partnership and cooperation, within the framework of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Family, with certain countries and international organizations like the IAI (ICT), Korea, China, India...

It appears that Cameroon is considering the introduction of a non-contributory social security system for the vulnerable segments of society through social transfers.

B- Assistance and Provision of Psychosocial therapy for Persons, Couples and Families subjected to Violence and Violation of their Rights

- 446.** This arrangement includes the introduction of the following:
- Help lines and CT Phones in the central and decentralized departments;
 - counselling, advisory and guidance services throughout the country;
 - provision of marital and family mediation services in cases of marital or family disputes, and
 - provision of treatment services for couples and families suffering from calamities and other emerging social behaviours.

Section II: Linking up with International Activities in this Area and Prospects

I- Celebration of the Day of the Family

- 447.** Cameroon, in conjunction with the international community, celebrates the « **International Day of the Family** » on 15 May every year.
- 448.** It should be stressed that the celebration of the International Day of the Family is the occasion to make people have a better understanding of the problems faced by the family, the basic unit of society, and to promote appropriate initiatives. It is a powerful factor of mobilization in all countries seeking to fashion out a response to the problems faced by families and also provides an opportunity to highlight the solidarity which unites families in the quest for a better quality of life.
- 449.** In Cameroon, the Government, through the MINPROFF, NGOs, learning institutions, religious groups and individuals, is helping to propagate the functions performed by families and their problems, their strengths and needs by organizing activities like the following, in particular:
- celebration of the International Day of the Family every year with the objective to further sensitize policy makers and public opinion on the exceptional role played by the family in development and the need to resolve related issues;
 - formulation of the policy, programmes and projects for the promotion and protection of the family;

- active cooperation of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Family with NGOs which provide the desired support for the activities of civil society by fully mobilizing their technical skills, their communities as well as their human and material resources in order to ensure the guidance of families, and
- preparations for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the International Day of the Family.

A- Themes of the Various Celebrations of the Day of the Family

450. Since 1994, the State of Cameroon has been celebrating on 15 May of every year, the International Day of Families under themes proposed by the United Nations. To this end, the following discussion themes have been examined since 1994:

- 1994 : « We are One Family » ;
- 1995 : « Tolerance is born within the Family » ;
- 1996 : « Families : First Victims of Poverty and Lack of Shelter » ;
- 1997 : « Building Families on Partnerships » ;
- 1998 : « Families : Educators and Providers of Human Rights » ;
- 1999 : « Families for All Ages » ;
- 2000 : « Families: Agents and Beneficiaries of Development » ;
- 2001 : « Families and Voluntarism: Building Social Cohesion » ;
- 2002 : « Families and Ageism : Opportunities and Challenges » ;
- 2003 : « Preparations for the Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 » ;
- 2004 : « 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family: A Framework for Action » ;
- 2005 : « HIV/AIDS and the Well-being of the Family » ;
- 2006 : « Families Today : Issues and Challenges » ;
- 2007 : « Families and Persons with Disabilities » ;
- 2009 : « Mothers and Families : Challenges in a Changing World » ;
- 2010 : « Impact of Migration on Families in Cameroon » ;
- 2011: « Combatting Poverty and Social Exclusion ».
- 2012 :

451. At the end of every celebration, discussions on the theme inspire the ideas of the programmes and projects which are subsequently developed by the Directorate of Family Affairs which formulates an expenditure action plan. Thus, the general report on the celebration of every International Year of the Family is a tool for the evaluation of the mandates for the guidance of families. Numerous projects and programmes are formulated at the end of each celebration on the examined theme.

SECTION III: OVERALL OUTCOMES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

452. In this regard, there is the need to raise the following issues:

- formulation and implementation of the national anti-HIV/AIDS strategy and the national « Woman and Family » anti-HIV/AIDS strategy, with the focus on prevention in women's and family circles as well as the counselling of infected persons and affected families;
- formulation and implementation of the national governance programme;
- institutionalization of gender in public institutions with the aim to promote human rights and the consideration of the specific needs of all social categories;

- formulation and implementation of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) for the period 2004-2009, replaced by the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) for the period 2010-2020, and
- formulation and implementation of the National Gender Policy Paper (DPNG) ;

I- As part of the fight against poverty and social exclusion

453. The Cameroonian government has made significant progress in the attainment of the MDGs with the support of its strategic partners within the international community. The following achievements can be noted:

- introduction of free education at the primary school level as well as the recruitment of a fresh group of 3,000 teachers;
- introduction of free treatment for uncomplicated malaria for children under five years old;
- provision of free antiretroviral drugs to HIV/AIDS patients;
- extension of the special food security programme to the entire country and the revival of the coffee/cocoa sector;
- training of 86,000 women and girls in 2009 in petty trades throughout the country, a situation which ensured the introduction of 1,263 productive micro-projects for women at a cost of FCFA 600.000.000;
- organization of a symposium under the theme: « **The Issue of the Situation of Widows in Cameroon** » during the celebration of the first edition of the International Widows' Day;
- promotion of the associative life of widows, with the aim of introducing a platform for consultations between the government and widows, who number about 500,000 in Cameroon ;
- strengthening of the National Vaccination Programme, the fight against malaria and the distribution of treated mosquito nets to pregnant women and families ;
- civil society initiatives which tend to encourage integration and the redeployment of retired workers in various sectors;
- the establishment of new universities, faculties and institutions for learning and advanced training in the institutions of higher learning;
- the passage of Law No.2010/002 of 13 April, 2010 on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities;
- the strategic focus of the government targeting an approach for the construction of gender-sensitive public infrastructure and edifices;
- the promotion and accessibility of persons with disabilities to all social, economic, cultural and political activities;
- the family, educational or socio-occupational reintegration of street children with the support of families;
- the enhancement of the employment of persons with disabilities in the Cameroonian civil service;
- the resumption and increase in the number of big industrial projects which are labour-intensive, have the potential to create wealth and jobs and are a source of growth;
- the fight against youth unemployment through the introduction of specific programmes for the youth;
- the strengthening of activities for the advancement of women's entrepreneurship;
- the introduction of a more equitable economic and financial system, the holistic handling of the debt problem, access to essential drugs and the narrowing of the digital divide.

II- Prospects

454. The following main activities will characterize the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the International Day of the Family in Cameroon in 2004. They are as follows:

- the dissemination of the Personal and Family Code;
- the dissemination of the strategy for the implementation of the National Family Policy Paper;
- the dissemination of the « **Women-Families** » anti-HIV, AIDS and STI sectoral plan (2013-2015) ;
- the organization of the second research project on the Cameroonian family, (the first one was done in 1988);
- the dissemination of the following family protection and promotion programmes:
 - Prenuptial, marriage and family programme;
 - Programme for the human rights education of families;
 - Assistance and anti-poverty programme for destitute and needy persons and families, and
 - Counselling assistance programme for persons and families grappling with problems of rights violations, spousal assault, domestic violence and addictions.
- the organization of a national symposium on the Family;
- the establishment of reception centres for persons in distress;
- the establishment in Cameroon of a National Family Council as a framework for consultations between the State, civil society and development partners on the problems of the family, and
- the dissemination of intervention aids, particularly:
 - the counselling guide;
 - the assistance guide for women and families;
 - the human rights education guide for families;
 - the prenuptial, marriage and family education guide, and
 - the psychosocial care guide.

455. In conclusion, through the diverse activities and programmes it has initiated, Cameroon, in spite of the economic recession, is displaying the political will to ensure the social services of the family, which is the basic social unit of the State.

Chapter 7: PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, ARTICLE 18, Paragraph 3 OF THE CHARTER.

456. As a consequence of the information contained in Paragraphs 317 et seq. of the previous report, and in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, the State carried out activities to ensure the rights of women. The information contained in this chapter will dwell on equality and non-discrimination (Section I), the protection of women from violence (Section II), rights relating to marriage (Section III), information on the other aspects of the issue regarding access to health care, particularly reproductive health, the enjoyment of the economic, social and cultural rights by specific women's groups which have already been tackled by the chapters dealing particularly with the right to health and the right to an adequate standard of living.

Section I - PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

457. The principle of equality and its accompanying principle, non-discrimination, established by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights relating to women's rights in Africa (Maputo Protocol), and the Constitution of Cameroon are being implemented through an internal regulatory and institutional framework. The regulatory framework underwent changes in 2010 with the adoption of Law N° 2010/002 of 13 April, 2010 on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities which, by extension, covers the rights of women with disabilities.
458. In the area of policies and programmes to fight against discrimination against women, significant progress was made with the validation, in December, 2010, of the National Gender Policy Paper, the adoption of which process is on-going. The main outlines of the National Gender Policy will be presented (§1) together with some outcomes of the various activities carried out (§2).

§1- Main Outlines of the National Gender Policy (PNG)

459. Although they have already been treated under the recommendations which were dealt with in the first part of this report, we shall go into more details on issues pertaining to the promotion of women's rights. After presenting the status of the promotion of gender in Cameroon, the goal and main strategic orientations of the PNG were defined together with its implementation mechanisms. The vision of the PNG coupled with the general vision of Cameroon to be attained by 2035 is the following: « *Cameroon is an emerging country built on the principles of good governance, where women and men enjoy the same rights and participate in development in an equitable and egalitarian manner* ».
460. Since the goal of the PNG is to ensure equality and equity between men and women in all spheres of national life, the main strategic orientations were defined in keeping with the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (DSCE). The aim is to ensure the promotion of equal access of girls, boys, women and men to education, training and information; the improvement of access by women to health services, particularly in the area of reproductive health; the promotion of the equality of chances and opportunities between men and women in the economic and employment spheres ; the promotion of a socio-cultural environment conducive to the respect of the rights of women ; the strengthening of the participation and representation of women in public life and decision-making and the strengthening of the institutional framework for gender promotion.
461. These six strategic orientations were presented as action matrices comprising specific sector objectives corresponding to operational strategies. The activities undertaken by the government produced results in several areas.

§2).Outcomes obtained

462. Among the advances made, only aspects relating to activities carried out to promote equality and non-discrimination will be examined, namely: sensitization on the gender approach tools (A) ; participation of women in political and public life (B) ; access to education and employment (C), and access to justice (D).

A- Sensitization on the gender approach tools

- 463.** Since the gender notion is generally associated with issues concerning women, efforts were made to sensitize stakeholders and contributors on the gender concept which is a socio-cultural variable referring to the social relations between men and women and laying emphasis on the differences which characterize men and women in society and the relations they maintain⁴⁹.
- 464.** At a more operational level, the capacity of the focal points and gender committees of public, semi-public and private institutions as well as officials responsible for strategic budget planning were strengthened in the area of concept definition, gender analysis and gender-sensitive budgeting.

B- Level of participation of women in political life and the decision-making process

- 465.** The gender analysis shows that although they constitute the majority of the Cameroonian population (50.6 % for a population estimated at 19.4 million as at 1 January, 2010)⁵⁰, women are more affected by the inequalities and discriminations in this area. The position of women on the political scene (1) and in the area of decision-making (2) is, therefore, extremely important for the implementation of the gender policy.

1- Proportion of women in political life

- 466.** The proportion of women in the city councils and National Assembly, (a) as well as their participation in the presidential elections of 9 October, 2011 (b) will be raised.

a) Proportion of women in the city councils and National Assembly

- 467.** In the current National Assembly and city councils, which will run until 2013 (after extension), women account for:
- National Assembly, 13.9 % of sitting Members of Parliament, 21.1% of alternate MPs and 30.4 % of the Bureau, and
 - The municipalities, 15.5% of town councillors, 6.7 % of mayors and 20% of deputy mayors.
- 468.** It is a slight advance in comparison to the situation of the previous National Assemblies and city councils⁵¹. Indeed, the 2002-2007 National Assembly had 11.1% women sitting Members of Parliament, whereas the city councils had 13% council women. There also were 3% women mayors and 12.7 % deputy women mayors. It should be stated that developments in the legislature are taking place in a chequered manner because in 1988-1996, the number of women Members of Parliament stood at 14.4 % before dropping to its lowest level of 5.6% in 1997-2002. The following table illustrates this development.

Table 40: Trend of women Members of Parliament since 1973

Legislature	1973-1978	1978-1983	1983-1988	1988 1992	-	1992 1997	-	1997 2002	-	2002 2007	-	2007-2012

⁴⁹ In this sense, an academic cycle for the award of a master's degree in gender and development was introduced at the Université de Yaoundé I in May, 2011.

⁵⁰ Results of the 3rd general population census over the period 1987-2005 made public on 14 April, 2010.

⁵¹ For more details, see chapter on the right to participate in the management of public affairs.

Number of women	7	12	17	26	23	10	20	25
% Women MPs	5.8	10.0	14.2	14.4	12.8	5.6	11.1	13.9
Total No. of MPs	120	120	120	180	180	180	180	180

Source : National Assembly

469. The representation of women in community councils and executive boards witnessed a more graduated trend by increasing from zero women mayors in 1982 to twenty-three (23) women mayors 13 years later, whereas the percentage of council women increased from 6.6% to 15.5 % over the same period. The following table illustrates the situation:

TABLE 41: Trend of the participation of women in the management of the municipalities between 1982 and 2012

City Councils	Total No. of Councillors	No. of Women	% of Women	No. of Women Mayors
1982	5,107	336	6.6	0
1987	5,345	446	8.3	1
1996	9,932	1,061	10.7	2
2002 - 2007	9,963	1,302	13.1	10
2007 - 2012	10,632	1,651	15.5	23

Source: MINATD

b) Participation of women in the presidential election of 9 October, 2011

470. The participation of women in the presidential election of 9 October, 2011 can be assessed on two fronts – female voters and female candidates.

471. **On female voters**, it was observed that there was a significant increase in the number of registered women, although the ELECAM has indicated that for the total number of registered persons, information on sex was not provided in some cases. The following table illustrates this trend.

Table 42: Trend of the number of women and men on the voters' register

Year	Total Number	Men	Women	% M	% W
2007	4,940,203	3,210,640	1,729,563	64.99%	35.01%
2011	7,525,532	3,853,208	3,537,047	51.20%	48.80%

Source : ELECAM Strategic Gender and Elections Plan

472. The increase in the number of females on the voters' register did not lead to a massive participation of women in the election. Thus, out of 3, 126,946 voters, only 1,158,121 women actually voted.

473. **On female candidates**, three were registered. These were TCHANA Lamartine, DANG BAYIBIDIO Esther and WALLA Edith KAHBANG. Only the latter two were able to appeal to voters for their votes, while the first had her candidacy invalidated. Among the twenty-three (23) competing candidates, WALLA Edith KAHBANG and DANG BAYIBIDIO Esther obtained 34,639

votes, i.e. 0.716%, and 15,775 votes, i.e. 0.326%, respectively. The first placed 6th and the second placed 11th.

2- Proportion of women in the decision-making process

474. The analysis will focus on decision-making posts in the public service and in the justice administration system. Since the decision-making posts par excellence are those at governmental level, the following table will bring out how the participation of women in government has evolved since the last ten (10) years.

Table 43: Representation of women ministers between 2001 and 2011

Year Post	2001/2002			2004/2005			2007/2009			2009/2010			2011		
	Total	Women	% Women	Total	Women	% Women	Total	Women	% Women	Total	Women	% Women	Total	Women	% Women
Prime Minister	1	0	0.0	1	0	0	1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0
Deputy Prime Minister	//	//	//	//	//	//	2	0	0.0	2	0	0.0	1	0	0.0
Minister of State	7	0	0.0	5	0	0.0	3	0	0.0	3	0	0.0			
Minister	22	2	9.1	32	4	12.5	31	5	16.1	31	5	16.1		6	
Deputy Minister ¹	3	0	0.0	10	0	0.0	8	0	0.0	9	1	11.1		1	
Secretary of State	12	1	8.3	10	2	20.0	6	1	16.7	6	1	16.6		02	
Total	45	3	6.7	58	6	10.3	51	6	11.8	52	7	13.5	54	09	14.5

¹ Ministers in charge of missions are put into the same category as deputy ministers

Source: Office of the Prime Minister

475. To analyze the level of implementation of the gender approach, the representation of women and men in decision-making posts is illustrated in terms of percentages by the following table:

Table 44: Proportion of men and women occupying decision-making positions

SECTOR	POSITION	% MEN	% WOMEN	AGGREGATE	SOURCE	REFERENCE YEAR
Public Administration	Positions	74.9	25.1	100	MINFOPRA MINPROFF/Study on the participation of women in public life in Cameroon	2008 2010
	Prime Minister	100	0	100	INS, TBS 3	2009

	Deputy Prime Minister	100	0	100		
	Minister of State	100	0	100		
	Ministers	83.9	16.1	100		
	Deputy Ministers	89.9	11.1	100		
	Secretaries of State	83.4	16.6	100		
	Principal Secretaries of the Ministries	83.3	16.7	100	MINFOPRA	2008
	Directors of state corporations	95.3	4.3	100		
	Directors	84.2	15.8	100		
	Deputy-Directors	78.8	21.8	100		
	Heads of Departments	72.2	27.8	100		
	Office Heads	65.1	34.9	100		
Territorial Command	Governors	100	1	100	INS, TBS 3	2012
	Prefects	100	1	100		
	Deputy-Prefects	98.9	1.1	100		
	District Heads	100	0	100		
Officials of the State universities	Vice-Chancellors	100	0	100	MINFOPRA	2008
	Pro-Vice Chancellors	85.7	14.3	100		
	Professors	94.1	5.9	100	INS, TBS 3	2009
	Senior Lecturers	92.3	7.7	100		
	Lecturers and Teaching Assistants	81.0	19.0	100		
	Teaching Staff	83.8	16.2	100		
Judicial Administration (minus the Bench)	Court Clerks	68.8	31.2	100	Ministry of Justice	of 2010
	Bailiffs	76.3	23.7	100		
	Notaries Public	42.4	57.6	100		
	Lawyers	56.2	43.8	100		
	Prison Superintendents	97.2	2.8	100		

Source : National Gender Policy Paper

The following table shows the trend of the representation of women in decision-making positions of the Bench at the end of the Judicial Council meeting of 18 April, 2012.

n°	Positions of responsibility	2010					2011					Variation of position occupied by women
		M	W	TOTAL	% M	% W	M	W	TOTAL	% M	% W	
Supreme Court												
1	Senior Chairperson and	03	00	03	100	00	03	00	03	100	00	0

	President of the Board											
2	Prosecutor General	01	00	01	100	00	01	00	01	100	00	0
3	Legal Advisors	45	06	51	88.24	11.76	47	05	52	90.38	9.62	-1
4	Advocates General	10	00	10	100	00	11	00	11	100	00	0
Courts of Appeal												
5	Presidents of the Courts of Appeal	09	01	10	90	10	08	02	10	80	20	+1
6	Prosecutor General	09	01	10	90	10	09	01	10	90	10	0
District and High Courts												
7	Presidents of the Courts	64	11	75	85.34	14.66	62	15	77	80.52	19.48	+4
8	Public Prosecutors	68	02	70	97.15	2.85	66	06	72	91.67	8.33	+4
Central Services of the Ministry of Justice												
9	Inspector General of Services	01	01	02	50	50	01	01	02	50	50	0
10	Technical Advisers	00	02	02	00	100	00	02	02	00	100	0
11	Directors at the Headquarters	07	00	07	100	00	04	02	06	66.67	33.33	+2
12	Inspectors of the General Inspectorate of Judicial Services	05	01	06	83.34	16.66	04	02	06	66.67	33.33	+1
13	Deputy—Directors and analogous personnel	14	06	20	70	30	13	07	20	65	35	+1
New Courts												
Special Criminal Court (national)												
14	President				Non-existent		01	00	01	100	00	0
15	Prosecutor-General				Non-existent		01	00	01	100	00	00
16	Advocates-General				Non-existent		07	00	07	100	00	00
17	Vice-Presidents				Non-existent		06	03	09	66,667	33.33	0
18	Examining Magistrates				Non-existent							
Administrative Courts (Regions)												
19					Non-existent		07	03	10	70	30	0

Source : Ministry of Justice

476. An analysis of this table shows that the increasing number of women in preparation and line positions, particularly deputy directors, heads of departments, office heads and supplementary staffers. Many of them are found in the liberal professions and are the majority in the notarial profession. On the other hand, the number of women reduces when it comes to design, managerial and decision-making positions in targeted sectors, with the situation improving slightly in the Judiciary in April, 2012. The most remarkable development is the appointment to the central administration of the Ministry of Justice of two women to the post of Directors in the

important units like the General Affairs Directorate and the Human Rights and International Cooperation Directorate. Beyond decision-making positions, one also observes a trend in the relative value of the number of women magistrates from 2010 to 2012 in the region of about 1.79%. In 2010, out of 994 magistrates, there were 752 men and 242 women, i.e. 24.35% women. In 2012, out of 1,167 magistrates, there were 862 men and 305 women, i.e. 26.14% women.

477. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since 2008, four (04) women have been occupying positions as Directors, with two in major directorates (the African Affairs Directorate and the European Affairs Directorate).

C: Access to education and employment

478. The essential goal of education and vocational training (1) is the access to decent employment (2), hence the close link between these rights in the promotion and equality between the sexes.

1) Education and Vocational Training

479. The following table represents the proportion of women and men in the various available teaching and training cycles.

Table 46: Representation of the proportion of women and men in the teaching cycles

CHARACTERISTICS	INDICATORS	%		AGGREGATE	SOURCES	REFERENCE YEARS
		M	W			
POPULATION STRUCTURE						
Structure by sex	Total Population	49.4	50.6	100	BUCREP/RGPH 3	2010
EDUCATION AND TRAINING						
Literacy	Literacy Rate (15 years and +)	78.9	62.9	70.6	INS/ECAM 3	2007
Primary Education	Gross Admission Rate	131	117	126	MINEDUB/ List of Schools	2010
	Gross Enrolment Rate (6-14 years)	117	104	110.5		
	Net Enrolment Rate	92	83	87		
	Rate of Primary School Completion	77.2	67.7	72.5		
	Percentage of children having attained the secondary school-going age but are still in primary school	40.0	31.0	35.4	INS/MICS	2006
	Cross Retention Rate at the primary level	58.9	57.8	57.8	MINEDUB/ List of Schools	2010

Secondary Education	Rate of transition from the primary to the secondary level	53.0	58.0		MINESEC/ Educational Strategy Document	2010
	General Education Enrolment Rate	53.5 7	46.4 3	100		
	Technical Education Enrolment Rate	56.3	43.7	100		
	Primary School Completion Rate	76.2	77.4			
	Rate of Transition between the 1st and 2 nd cycles	62.0	54.0			
	Retention Rate during the 2 nd cycle	16.0	54.6			
Higher Education	Students at the Higher Education Level	55.7	44.3	100	MINESUP/ Higher Educational Statistical Directorate	2010
	State Universities	57.9 2	42.0 8	100		
	Private Higher Education Institutes	48.6	51.4	100		
	Learners of the SAR/SM	61.0 4	38.9 6	100	Rapport 2009 Formation Professionnelle	2009
	Learners in public fasttrack vocational training centres	63.5 7	36.4 2	100 %	-/-	
	Learners in the private fasttrack vocational centres	46.1 0	53.9 0	100 %	-/-	
	Total	54.6	45.4	100 %		
	Drop-out Rate	10.6	14		Vocational Training Strategy	

Source : National Gender Policy Paper

480. In comparison with data for 2008, these statistics show that girl-child enrolment is increasing at the primary and secondary levels. On the other hand, it dropped slightly at the higher education level, particularly in the state universities, it dropped from 43.2 % in 2008/2009 to 42.08 % in 2010/2011. On the contrary, there are more girls in private higher education institutes where they account for 51.4% of the student population.

- **Incentives put in place for school girls**

481. Pregnant school girls are not withdrawn from their schools and are allowed to resume learning after they give birth. Besides, repetition as a result of pregnancy is allowed when the requirements with regard to age and resources are met.

482. Furthermore, sensitization activities are being carried out for school girls in the country on the importance of the enrolment of girls and pregnancy-related risks.

2) Access to employment

483. The following table illustrates the proportion of women and men in the various activity sectors as well as the unemployment and under-employment rate.

Table 47: PROPORTION OF WOMEN AND MEN IN THE ACTIVITY SECTORS

Characteristics	Indicators	% M	% W	Aggregate	Source	Reference year
Activity	Rate of activity BIT (15-64years)	86.2	79.5	82.8	INS/ECAM 3	2007
	Extended rate of activity	87.3	82.4	84.7		
Unemployment	Extended unemployment rate (15-64 years)	3.8	7.0	5.4		
Under-employment	Overall under-employment rate (15-64 years)	60.2	78.8	69.6		
Occupation	Rate of occupation	96.2	93.0	94.6		
Distribution of active persons with or without a job	Active persons with a job	61.3	44.5	52.6%		
	Active persons without a job but who have worked before	3.8	2.2	3.0%		
	Unemployed active persons looking for a job	6.5	5.6	6.1%		
	Pupils and students	19.3	16.4	17.8%		
	Annuitants with no economic activity	0.5	0.7	0.6%		
	Other inactive persons with no economic activity	7.3	7.6	7.4%		
	Housewives		11.8			
Activity sectors	Distribution of active persons engaged in the formal sector	11.9	4.1	8.0		
	Distribution of active persons engaged in the informal agricultural sector	58.6	68.6	63.5		
	Distribution of active persons engaged in the informal non-agricultural sector	29.6	27.3	28.5		
Branches of activity	Primary	59.4	69.1	64.2		
	Industry	10.0	8.4	9.2		
	Trade	9.3	10.3	9.7		
	Services	21.4	12.3	16.9		

Socio-economic groups	Managers/public sector bosses	2.6	1.1	1.8		
	Other public sector salaried workers	2.8	1.2	2.0		
	Managers/formal private sector bosses	1.6	0.7	1.2		
	Other formal private sector salaried workers	4.9	1.1	3.0		
	Farmers	30.0	28.6	29.3		
	Dependent on the informal agricultural sector	28.6	40.0	34.2		
	Bosses of the informal non-agricultural sector	1.0	0.4	0.7		
	Informal non-agricultural self-employed workers	16.1	18.0	17.0		
	Informal non-agricultural salaried workers	12.5	8.9	10.7		

Source :National Gender Paper

484. As a complement of the statistics on the representation of women in decision-making positions, this table shows that fewer women occupy managerial positions both in the public sector and the private sector, in formal activities and in industry. Thus, they account for only 4.1% of active persons engaged in the formal sector, as against 11.9% for men. More of them are found in the informal sector in general and especially in the informal agricultural sector. Many of them are also found in primary activities and trade⁵².

485. The following table illustrates the distribution in percentage terms of the active female population engaged by status and by branch of activity, depending on the level of education.

Table 48: Distribution of women in the branches of activity

Indicators	No level	Primary	Secondary 1st cycle	Secondary 2nd cycle	Higher Education	Aggregate
Status in employment						
Permanent salaried workers	0.4	2.5	14.4	48.5	78.4	8.2
Temporary salaried workers	1.2	3.5	8.9	14.5	9.9	4.1
Employers	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8
Self-employed	62.2	75.0	64.0	32.1	10.0	63.6
Family helpers	36.0	18.1	10.7	3.4	0.9	23.4
Paid apprentices	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
Unpaid apprentices	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.3
Total – Women	100	100	100	100	100	100
Branch of Activity						
Agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing	93.5	74.9	39.3	12.9	4.9	74.3
Extractive industries	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0

⁵² The statistics are generated by the National Statistical Institute (INS) every five years which justifies the 2007 and sometimes those of 2005.

Manufacturing activities	0.9	5.9	13.6	11.2	6.1	4.9
Water/electricity production/distribution	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9	1.7	0.1
Construction	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6	1.1	0.2
Trade/Maintenance	4.4	13.0	25.9	27.6	12.4	11.6
Hotels and restaurants	0.3	1.2	3.0	4.2	8.2	0.7
Transport and communications	0.1	0.4	1.7	4.4	8.2	0.7
Financial activities	0.0	0.0	0.3	2.5	7.2	0.3
Real Estate/Hiring	0.0	0.1	1.2	5.1	9.3	0.6
Public Administration/Defence and other services	0.6	4.4	14.6	30.6	64.1	6.1
Total – Women	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source : 3rd RGPH, 2005 –BUCREP

486. It will be observed here that the employment status, the number of women among permanent salaried workers increases as and when the level of education increases and all salaried women workers account for 8.2%. On the other hand, the less educated they are, the more women are engaged in self-employment occupations where they account for 63.6%.

487. With regard to the branches of activity, 93.5% of uneducated women are found in the agricultural and forestry sector where women of all levels of learning are also found and account for 74.3%. Irrespective of their level of education, they can also be found in manufacturing, trade and catering.

488. It should be stated that most salaried women workers have pursued higher education and most independent female workers stopped school at the primary level or the junior secondary school level.

489. Finally, the rate of women employed in the public service and other related departments stands at 6.1% and most of them have either pursued higher education or completed senior secondary school at least.

490. It should be stated that the State has ensured the implementation of the informal sector agenda with projects targeted at women in collaboration with its partners. Among others, these projects and programmes are as follows:

- strengthening the capacity of women's networks in the fight against poverty in the Republic of Cameroon (CAREF) ;
- improvement of family incomes in the northern regions (PARFAR) ;
- support for reforms in the technical education and vocational training (PARETFOP) ;
- establishment of a Youth Economic Integration Fund;
- introduction of a support mechanism for support to poor women in the centres for the advancement of women, and
- implementation of the National Integral Child Development Policy.

D – Access to justice

491. As specified in the previous report⁵³, the right to obtain justice is guaranteed by the Constitution to all Cameroonians irrespective of sex. The legal framework for the improvement of access to justice put in place in 2009 through the adoption of Law N°2009/004 of 14 April, 2009

⁵³ See 2009 Report p.54 and 55.

on the organization of legal assistance allows women to go to court because they fall into most of the categories of persons who can request and obtain legal assistance. Indeed, a lot of them fall into the category of the destitute, persons liable for a flat rate tax, spouses in charge of minors whose parents are going through divorce proceedings, who have no income of their own.

492. Thus, out of the applications registered and considered by the commissions in 2010, 141 women as against 113 men benefitted from legal assistance in diverse cases and before all the levels of the court system. In 2011, the figures were 270 for men and 62 for women.

Section II - PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM VIOLENCE

493. It hinges on the fight against all forms of gender-based violence. These are acts of violence to which women are subjected because they are of the female sex, a situation which constitutes signs of discrimination.

Structurally, the regulatory framework is made up of international, regional and national legal instruments.

494. Nationally, mention can be made of the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Civil Procedure Code. It should be stated that the legal system is being reformed to ensure the harmonization of international and internal laws. The cross-cutting institutional framework for the protection of women from violence basically comprises the ministries responsible for the protection of women and justice.

495. The fight against violence perpetrated against women has a preventive aspect (§1) and a deterrent aspect (§2). It also takes the support for and rehabilitation of victims of violence into account (§3).

§1) Prevention of violence against women

496. It hinges on the formulation of a strategy to fight against gender-based violence through a platform (A) as well as sensitization (B)

A- Platform for the fight against gender-based violence

497. To achieve the harmonization and coordination of interventions for the fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), a project for a platform of actions prepared by the MINPROFF was enriched and validated during a workshop held on 08 and 09 September, 2011. This workshop brought together the representatives of the ministries, the United Nations organs, particularly UN/WOMEN and UNFPA, CNDHL, women's associations and religious associations.

B- Sensitization

498. Seminars, workshops and information campaigns were organized to sensitize the people on violence against women. This is why the national campaign against rape and incest which was launched in 2009 continued in 2010.

499. Besides, during the celebration held from 25 November to 10 December, 2011 under the theme « *From peace in the home to peace in the world: Let's defy militarism and end violence against women* », several activities were carried out. The Cameroonian Association of Women Lawyers (ACAFEJ) organized a social mobilization campaign which led to the rolling out of several activities. These were the holding of a round table on preventive engagement as a mode of prevention of violence against women; a photo, poetry and cartoon exhibition on violence

against women under the theme « *The other me/ I love, I love you* » and the design of communication and sensitization aids on these forms of violence among which is the production of a documentary entitled « *The Ordeal of Women* ». This 43-minute film, which was shown on *Cameroon Radio and Television*, the national television station, presented the most current acts of violence of which women are victims in the Far-Northern, Central, Western and Littoral regions as well the testimonies of victims.

500. Moreover, the training of magistrates on the application of the CEDAW which commenced in 2009 has posted its initial results. In this regard, this Convention has been invoked and even applied before the courts in many instances.

By way of illustration, mention can be made of the following:

- judgment n°22/CIV/TGI of 08 November, 2010 of the Menoua High Court in Dschang. In this case, Kana Jeannette, wife of Gniejoungo, dragged her husband before this court of competent jurisdiction to agree to annul the sale by the latter of a building which is part of the communal estate and which is occupied by herself and the children of the couple. As a legal basis, she invoked Article 16 Paragraph §h of the CEDAW which guarantees « *The same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposal of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration* ».
- the defendant, for his part, relied on the provisions of Article 1421 of the Civil Code which states that « *the husband alone administers the communal estate. He may sell, dispose of and mortgage them without the involvement of the wife* ». The court did not grant the reliefs sought by the applicant on the grounds that the sold building did not form part of the communal estate because it was acquired before the marriage. The interest with this case lies in the fact that the judge acknowledged the justifiability of the CEDAW, while basing his judgment on the origin of the property, and
- judgment n°103/L of 12 November, 2010 of the Court of Appeal of the Littoral Region. In this case, Yakwa Séraphine, wife of Mbangue, appealed against the judgment of the Mbanga District Court which pronounced the divorce between her and her husband on the grounds, among others, that the judge did not liquidate the estate which existed between her husband and her.

501. The Court of Appeal quashed the judgment given on this point by applying both common law and the provisions of Article 16 Paragraph §h of the CEDAW supra. It dismissed the argument of the husband that it was a fresh application before the court and it cannot be upheld because, according to Mbo custom, which is their custom, women must show proof of their contribution to the acquisition of the property of the household. The Court of Appeal of the Littoral Region recalled that the liquidation of the communal estate is a logical consequence of the divorce proceedings. Therefore, it ordered the liquidation and the partition by half of the communal estate which existed between the Mbangue spouses and appointed a notary public with jurisdiction to proceed with the said partition.

502. The popularization of the Maputo Protocol which lays emphasis on the protection of women from violence was done for more than 7,000 women's networks and associations. A prenuptial, marriage and family education programme was formulated and implemented in order to ensure the primary prevention of problems in relations of couples and families.

These sensitization activities witnessed a special development during the celebration of the International Women's Day under the theme « Elimination and Prevention of all Forms of Violence

against Women and Girls ». The Cameroonian government seized this opportunity to add its voice to that of the international community in order to discuss all forms of violence to which women are exposed as well as the means to prevent and, indeed, to eliminate them.

503. Although a specific budget has not been allocated for sensitization on violence against women, the governmental bodies tasked with the issue are carrying out activities in this regard through deductions from their master budget and with the support of technical and financial partners. In this regard, an extensive programme to combat violence against women is being executed with the support of the French Cooperation Agency, UN-Women and NGOs operating in this area. The aim of the programme is to participate in the structuring of a national platform for dialogue, legal assistance to women who have been victims of violence and their welfare.

§2) Repression of violence against women

504. This is ensured through the courts when cases of violence are exposed. Sexual aggression is a form of physical violence to which women fall victim most often and proceedings are systematically instituted against the perpetrators who are sentenced in most cases.

505. Two women died after suffering domestic violence in 2010. Besides, one can cite the case of a female magistrate, who was shot dead by her husband, a police officer, on 15 November, 2009. A judicial enquiry was opened and an arrest warrant was issued against the criminal on the run. Administratively, the latter was interdicted through Decision n° 0000652/DGSN/CAB of 1 December, 2009, pending the outcome of the disciplinary procedure instituted against him before the disciplinary committee of the Criminal Investigations Department.

§3) Support and rehabilitation of victims of violence

506. the training of women who have been victims of violence led to the following:

- Establishment of counseling, mediation and marital and family therapy units in 50 district offices of the MINPROFF and 78 centres for the advancement of women and the family (CPF). These units handled 17,000 cases of marital and family violence involving women during the year 2010, and 3,668 of these cases have been settled amicably;
- the establishment and installation of departmental committees to fight against female genital mutilation (GFM) in the areas most affected by his phenomenon, particularly in Mamfe, in the Manyu County, and Kousséri, in the Logone County, and Chari;
- the psycho-social welfare of young girls who suffered from obstetrical fistula after they had been subjected to female genital mutilation (GFM);
- the public provision of baby clothes to more than 500 cases of young girls who have been victims of unwanted pregnancies and/or have been abandoned by their partners, and
- the training of 2,678 young girls rejected by the normal school system in the centres for the advancement of women (CPF).

Section III: RIGHTS OF WOMEN RELATING TO MARRIAGE

507. Following from the contents of Paragraph 321 of the above report which is relevant in the area of the promotion of the rights of women relating to marriage, the government had recourse to the prevailing law. The said law yielded significant dividends in 2010 both in the area of the promotion of the universal principle of the equality of rights in marriage (§1) and the protection of the conjugal rights of women by the justice system (§1).

§1) Promotion of the equality of rights in marriage

- 508.** This is to ensure that men and women enjoy the same rights and are considered as partners during the marriage and during the dissolution of the same through divorce or the demise of spouse.
- 509.** In order to encourage lawful marriages, enable women to disentangle themselves from the insecurity of cohabitation and to enjoy the same rights as men in the marriage, the government continued to provide financial support for the celebration of mass marriages. These marriages celebrated by competent registrars of marriages, in accordance with the prevailing regulations, have ensured the legalization of 2868 cohabitational relationships which often had several children and came from deprived segments of society.
- 510.** The relevant departments of the Civil Service liquidated 244 widows' pensions and death benefits to the surviving spouses, majority of whom were widows. Fifteen (15) of these women received legal assistance in this regard to follow up on their cases, particularly to obtain inheritance judgments.

§2) Legal protection of the conjugal rights of women.

- 511.** This protection was reflected in the handling of civil proceedings in connection with the dissolution of marriages in accordance with the following status.

Table 49: Trend of statistics on the protection of the conjugal rights of women

	2010	2011	Variations
Liquidation of the matrimonial regime	228	346	+118
Alimony for women	250	328	+78
Inheritance to which women are entitled	983	1349	+366

Source : MINJUSTICE

- 512.** Persons subject to trial have more recourse to traditional law courts (TPD) than the statutory law courts (TGI) for the settlement of their matrimonial and inheritance disputes, even though the jurisdiction of the former is subject to the acceptance of the defendant. This appears to justify the simplification of legal proceedings and a reduction in legal costs. However, it was observed that out of 1,047 divorces pronounced before this legal system in 2010 and a high number of inheritance cases which were commenced, the matrimonial regime was only liquidated in thirty-nine (39) cases, while the dissolution of the marriage necessarily brings about the dissolution of the matrimonial regime under which the marriage was contracted. Such a situation does not favour ex-spouses, particularly women who are generally forced to leave the marital home, in the event of a conflict.
- 513.** The officials of these courts should be sensitized on the need to liquidate the matrimonial regime because each of the spouses must enjoy his/her inheritance after the divorce and the inheritance must only reflect the part of the property due to either spouse after the liquidation of the matrimonial regime.
- 514.** The trend is appreciable in the area of the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children, but a lot of work needs to be done, particularly in the area of inheritance rights, a

balance between education, training and access to decent employment by women as well as the prevention of physical and psychological violence.

Chapter 8: PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN (ARTICLE 18 PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE CHARTER)

515. Children enjoy a privileged status in Cameroon as a result of the political commitment of the Very High Authorities of the State. For example, Cameroon, which has ratified the main international legal instruments relating to the protection and promotion of children, also makes provision for specific measures for the protection of children in its constitution as well as civil, criminal and criminal procedure codes.

516. All aspects of the protection of children, which are necessary for their development, growth and welfare, remain a permanent concern for the Cameroonian government. This led to the pursuit of multi-sectoral activities for this segment of the population. Progress is being achieved in all aspects of their development.

Section I. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN: PROGRESS MADE BETWEEN 2008 AND 2012.

§1: In the area of the institutional legal framework and general policy

I. Legal framework

517. It has been strengthened by the adoption of Law n° 2011/024 of 14 December, 2011 on the fight against trade in children and child trafficking.

II. Strengthening of the institutional framework for the training of children

518. It was characterized by the following:

- holding on 16 June, 2010, 2011 and 2012, in the chamber of the National Assembly, the 12th, 13th and 14th sessions of the Children's Parliament with the participation of 180 junior Members of Parliament representing the 10 regions and coming from all social categories;
- recruitment of a consultant for the evaluation of the Children's Parliament in order to make concrete proposals on the final status of the Children's Parliament, and
- organization of Days of the African Child in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

III. In the area of the general policy

519. Mention can be made of the formulation of a National Integral Child Development Policy Document with three major strategic orientations:

- improvement of access to and quality of basic essential social services necessary for the harmonious development of children;
- improvement of the quality of life and environment of children, and
- strengthening of the institutional and strategic mechanism on children.

520. In fact, in Cameroon, the ideal training of children is done within the family. The establishment of child training institutions only comes to address crisis situations and to serve as temporary substitutes for parents. In this regard, four (04) reception centres for children in distress as well as crèches have been set up.

- **However, the protection of children deprived of a family environment is taken into account through:** institutional placement, temporary family placement and adoption.

IV. Protection of young children who need special protection measures

A. Care for orphans and children rendered vulnerable as a result of HIV/AIDS (OVC)

521. The third strategic orientation of the fight against AIDS focuses on the medical, nutritional, educational, psycho-social and legal support of orphans and other vulnerable children. In this regard, Cameroon, with the benefit of bilateral and multilateral assistance, has developed several nation-wide projects which ensured that care was given in 2011 to 70,000 orphans and children rendered vulnerable as a result of HIV/AIDS. Besides, campaigns to fight against stigmatization of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) have been organized. As part of the celebration of the 20th edition of the Day of the African Child, sensitization activities were carried out by the ten (10) regional branches of the country's Ministry of Social Affairs.

522. Among other major activities carried out, mention can be made of the following:

- National Assistance Programme for OVCs which receives financing from the Global Fund;
- Bilateral and multilateral project in partnership with UNICEF and the French Cooperation Agency in three districts (N'Gaoundéré, Douala₂ and Bamenda), and
- Integrated psycho-social support project for orphans and vulnerable children, in partnership with UNICEF and the ANDORAN Committee.

523. As part of the process of the strengthening of the sponsorship system for orphans and other vulnerable children in Cameroon, the following activities are being undertaken:

- formulation of the draft law instituting the sponsorship of OVCs in Cameroon, and
- introduction of an OVC database which is a policy paper defining the framework, guidelines, strategies and priority areas for the care of OVCs. It is also an important advocacy tool for the various public and private national and international partners.

B. Prevention of and fight against social maladjustment and care for street children (EDR)

524. The Government is implementing activities aimed at combating the phenomenon of street children. In this regard, the project for the fight against the phenomenon of street children (EDR) was launched in 2008 and has yielded the following outcomes:

1. Identification and care for EDRs in 2010 :

172R were identified in Yaoundé, i.e.: 115 aged less than 18 years and 57 aged more than 18 years (not eligible for the project).

Among the EDRs aged less than 18 years:

- Five (05) were directly placed in families after they had received counselling support upon the request of parents, and
- Eighty-one (81) were placed in institutions, including sixty-five (65) at the ICE in Bétamba and sixteen (16) at the Buéa Borstal Institute.

2. Educational support for children returning to families

- **Yaoundé and Douala:** 178 former street children returned to families and 64 of them have been reintegrated into the regular school system. They received educational support on 2 September, 2010 after they had obtained good school results, including the following:
 - 05 Primary School Certificates;
 - 01 A4 Spanish prelims, and
 - 01 Baccalauréat [A' Level] D series – Grade: Quite Good, 2010 Session.

525. Several letters to ensure the security of children in distress, like the Memorandum of Understanding, signed between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the General Delegation at the Criminal Investigation Department, with the aim of ensuring the security of children in difficulty, the formulation of a care guide for children in difficulty and the strengthening of the capacity of social workers in the roles of assessors and non-custodial supervision administrators at the courts. Workshops were also organized.

C. Social Protection of Children with Disabilities

526. This part will be developed under the chapter on the protection of people with disabilities.

D. Access to citizenship and basic social services by children born to indigenous vulnerable people

527. This part will be developed under the chapter on the protection of indigenous peoples.

E. Fight against the trade in children and child trafficking

528. Cameroon's policy in this area focuses on the prevention, detection of and crackdown on the perpetrators of these offences as well as the counselling and socio-economic rehabilitation of victims, with emphasis on the strengthening of the capacity of families in a community approach.

529. To this end, the Government of Cameroon initiated in 2001, a national campaign to fight against the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. Besides, Cameroon took part in the launch of the campaign named: « **Initiative of the AU Commission against the trafficking of human beings (AU. COMMIT) for the Regional Economic Communities of Central and Northern Africa** », followed by a workshop in Libreville, Gabon from 3 to 5 December, 2012. Among other objectives, it was to :

- Sensitize Member States on the need to operationalize the Ouagadougou Plan of Action on the fight against the trafficking of persons, particularly women and children, and to launch the AU COMMIT campaign for the said Member States;
- study the various institutional mechanisms in each State, and
- strengthen the coordination of the mechanisms to fight against the Trafficking of Persons at the National and Regional Levels in Central and Northern Africa.

F. Participation of Cameroon in International Meetings on the Rights of Children

530. Particular mention can be made of:

- participation in the Forum on the fight against the involvement of children in armed conflicts and groups, organized in N'djamena (Chad) in July, 2010, and
- participation in Brasilia (Brazil), in June, 2010, in the International Conference on the Sensitization of Children and Adolescents on the Protection of the Environment under the theme: « Let's Take Care of the Planet ». 10 junior Members of Parliament from Cameroon took an active part in this conference which led to the formulation of the **« Charter on the Let's Take Care of the Planet Responsibilities »**

§2 Advances made in the area of the Health of Children

531. The formulation of Cameroon's health strategy is hinged on the Millennium Development Goals.

A. As part of the fight against infectious diseases :

- **HIV/AIDS**: care for children with anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) as well as support for orphans and vulnerable children from 0 to 18 years are absolutely free
- **Tuberculosis** : care is absolutely free;
- **Malaria**: since it is the main cause of morbidity, specific strategies have been adopted in addition to the distribution of treated mosquito nets which now covers 92% of the target population. Free treatment for children under 5 years was decided by the Head of State, and
- **Helminthiasis**: every year, screening campaigns are organized throughout the country.

B. Maternal and child health: family planning coverage stands at 13%. In 2010, the Government launched the campaign for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality (CARMA) which will be treated under the section on the right to health.

C. As part of the health of adolescents and the youth: it can be stated that the introduction of Education on Family Life and on Population Issues (EVF/EMP) in schools over the last few years is making a tremendous contribution to the sex education of boys and girls.

§3 Advances made in the area of child education

532. A plan of action was adopted in 2009 in order to attain the expected outcomes. It focuses on the following:

- a) **Extent of pre-school coverage** (nursery education). It led to the development of the community experience for rural people, particularly the most disadvantaged, and early childhood training. The establishment of nurseries has doubled because the government wishes to encourage access to basic education by all. The development of projects such as the EFA project (Education For All) and the encouragement of activities aimed at quickly bringing schools closer to children have seen the light of day.
- b) **Attainment of the universalization of primary education to ensure by 2015**, the universal completion of school in six years, the improvement in the quality of educational services offered and the limitation of the private financing of basic educational services to those parents who so wish and have the means. With the government's policy of free primary education, access by boys and girls to school has been remarkable. In the north of the country, many activities are being carried out to encourage girls to go to school.
- c) **Adoption by the Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB), of a plan of action in 2009 which is structured around the objectives of the Educational Sector Strategy**. This is concretized by certain components: access and equity, effectiveness and quality,

development of an effective partnership with members of civil society as well as management and governance. These objectives can be attained through the development of school infrastructure (construction of classrooms and other structures for the training of pupils), recruitment and training of teachers (ENIEG and ENS), i.e. an availability of 18,425 teachers.

- d) **Fight against repetition shows that the Government is making visible efforts, given the considerable percentages recorded;** the average repetition rate has reduced by two points on the average. In 2007/2008, it was 17% and in 2008/2009, it dropped to 15%.
- e) **Improvement of the availability of education** has also led to the introduction of a programme for the construction of 13,582 new classrooms until 2011. All these classrooms benefitted from the construction of 600 latrines, 120 sports fields, 488,952 tables-benches, 110 water outlets and 600 stand-by accommodation units.
- f) **Efforts by the World Food Programme (WFP)** through its strategy for the distribution of foodstuffs in the Priority Education Zones (PEZs) are laudable with respect to access to school by girls and boys. The building of school canteens enables children to have access to food and avoid dropping out of school.

533. One can conclude that the availability of education has clearly improved with the increase in the number of schools and teachers. In **2009**, there were:

- 1,776 public nurseries;
- 2,688 private nurseries;
- 69 parents' schools and community pre-school centres;
- Number of pupils: 287,720 (total for public and private) ;
- Number of pupils in the public system: 101,169
- Number of pupils in the private system: 185,551
- Number of pupils in the parents' schools and community pre-school centres: 7,988
- Number of teachers in the public system: 5,134
- Number of pupils in the private and community systems: 7,788

534. In 2011, 700 new primary and nursery schools were built to ensure that children had better access to school.

In 2009, the proportion of the budget allocated to the educational system set aside for basic education was 42%, and 18.8% of this amount was allocated to early childhood education.

For 2010, the proportion of the budget for basic education was expected to be 43%, and 19.1% was allocated to early childhood education.

In 2011, 45% of the budget of the educational system was allocated to basic education, and it was projected that 19.4% would go to early childhood education.

535. The community aspects of the pre-school education sensitization campaigns carried out in 2009 were pursued through dissemination, training and the production of sensitization materials as well as support to the communities and groups. A budget of 95 million was allocated for 2010 and 2011. Total support for the development of private pre-school educational provision stood at 192 million for 2009, 2010 and 2011. Finally, 55 public nursery schools were built at a total cost of FCFA 1,925 million.

536. To sum up, the total cost of the implementation of the education strategy, i.e. the promotion of early childhood education from 2009 to 2011, stood at 2,292 million. 2,180 million of this

amount was financed by the budget allocated to the MINEDUB, with an outstanding funding gap of less than FCFA 112 million.

SECTION II: DYNAMIC ACTIVITIES OF PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS

I. Dynamic activities of civil society

537. As part of a policy to open up to the private sector, the Government introduced an encouraging legal framework for the establishment of private social organizations in the area of the social protection of children. Thus, public child protection activities are supported by initiatives of various NGOs and associations in the area of the law, health, education and psycho-social support.

II. Commitment and multifaceted activities of the First Lady of Cameroon.

538. In addition to the active participation of civil society, it is important to note the multifaceted activities of the **First Lady, Her Excellency Madam Chantal BIYA, UNESCO Good Will Ambassador for Education and Social Inclusion**, who, through her charitable organizations such as « African Synergies Against AIDS and Suffering », « Circle of Friends of Cameroon » (CERAC) and the foundation named after her, is putting a lot of effort into the development of children.

539. **The Chantal BIYA Foundation (FCB), established in 1994, is a recognized public interest social organization. It enjoys a special consultative status with the Economic and Social Commission of the United Nations and is a member of the Francophonie Mother-Child Network.**

540. Among other objectives, it works towards the following:

- protection, education, social and health work for the benefit of mothers and children, and
- assistance to children in distress (orphans and children rendered vulnerable as a result of HIV/AIDS, abandoned children, children from marginal populations, etc.).

Among its achievements in the area the social protection of children, mention can be made of a few:

- **In the area of education**, the construction of 10 reference primary schools called « FCB Champion Public Schools » at Dimako, Nanga-Eboko, Bagangté, Maroua, Memiam (Mbalmayo), Yabassi, Limbé, Garoua, Ngaoundéré and Bamenda, in order to ensure quality education for the isolated and vulnerable segments of society;
- **In the area of health**, free care through three (03) medical centres: Yaoundé Mother-and-Child Centre, Meyomessala Medical Centre and the Centre for Research and Application Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproduction (CHRACERH). Numerous cases of children in distress were taken into consideration, particularly as part of the partnership agreement between the FCB and the Ministry of Social Affairs which was signed in 2005. The Centre for Research and Application of Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproduction (CHRACERH) and the Mother-Child Centre aim at improving maternal health and treatment of various infant ailments, and
- **In the area of special protection**, the nutritional, health, educational, legal and psycho-social care of orphans and abandoned children was implemented through the establishment of an orphanage, the Children First Centre.

541. Circle of the Friends of Cameroon (CERAC)

Established to take an active part in the development effort of Cameroon which has been given a boost by the Head of State, CERAC has particularly contributed to the following sectors:

- construction and rehabilitation of schools and health facilities, with emphasis on children's blocks;
- educational support and medical donations meant for destitute children, and
- delivery of prostheses to children with disabilities.

542. African Synergies Against AIDS and Suffering

As an NGO which brings together First Ladies from Africa and other continents who agree to subscribe to its statutes, Synergies Africaines is an initiative launched by the First Lady of Cameroon during the 32nd OAU Summit held in 1996. It aims at reducing the suffering of African children through the following:

- holistic support for orphans and other children rendered vulnerable as a result of HIV/AIDS (OVCs);
- prevention of mother-child transmission of HIV/AIDS (PTME), and
- provision of pediatric ARVS.

543. Even though a lot remains to be done, the multi-sectoral activities of the government and initiatives by individuals and civil society organizations are ensuring the improvement of the situation of children in Cameroon.

Chapter 9: PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND OLDER PERSONS (ARTICLE 18 Paragraph 4) OF THE CHARTER

544. The promotion and protection of vulnerable persons (older persons and persons with disabilities) is a major concern for the public authorities. They are considered as full members of society and their contribution remains important for national development. These actions for the benefit of older persons are part of the fight against exclusion and for the promotion of national solidarity. A national policy for the management and care of older persons has been formulated, while the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities has been strengthened (Section II).

SECTION I: MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE PROTECTION OF OLDER PERSONS

545. On account of Paragraph 339 of Cameroon's 2nd periodic report, the training of older persons throughout the country led to the rollout of certain activities aimed at protecting and promoting their rights. Among others, these are as follows:

- **launch on 30 May, 2008 of the operation for the collection of data on older persons and retirees** with the aim of diagnosing and assessing the needs and solutions proposed by the older persons themselves;
- **holding of 4 inter-regional workshops** at Ebolowa, Garoua, Bafoussam and Limbé in May, 2009;
- **operationalization of the Senior Citizens' University** through the organization of inter-generational thematic meetings in the ten regions of the country, which were held on the

occasion of the celebration on 1st October, 2009, of the International Day of Older Persons (JIPA) under the theme: « Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Older Persons» and the introduction of the « **Village Renaissance** » concept;

- **formulation of a draft guide for an active and healthy ageing process;**
- **implementation of the « *never without my grandfather, never without my grandmother* » concept** which ensures the care of abandoned older persons by well-to-do people;
- **launch of the national competition for the production of the « Great Encyclopedia of the Past and Future » with the aim of capturing, putting together and developing the experience, knowledge and inter-personal skills;**
- **organization** from 28 to 30 June, 2010, at Kribi in the Southern Region, **of a workshop to enrich and validate the draft National Policy Document on the Protection and Promotion of Older Persons**, with the logistical support of the UN Division of Social Policies and Social Development;
- **on-going formulation of the National Assistance Strategy for vulnerable older persons** prescribed by the Prime Minister and Head of Government in the MINAS roadmap under the current year;
- **token of recognition of older persons of more than 100 years old**, as part of the fiftieth independence anniversary and reunification of Cameroon, through multifaceted assistance on the basis of the available report on older persons and centenarians (100 years and more). 35 older persons have specially benefitted from financial aid of nearly FCFA 2,000,000;
- **on-going establishment of National Committee on Ageing (CONAVI)**, a multi-sectoral framework for the formulation of strategies for the promotion of older persons;
- **use of data collected throughout the country** in order to produce a catalogue of organizations for the training of persons with disabilities and older persons, and
- **commencement of work on the construction of a Pilot Home for the Aged in Yaoundé**, which falls in line with the concerns of the authorities to establish counselling centres for older persons, but also information, education, sensitization and development frameworks for occupational or revenue-generating activities.

SECTION II: MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

546. The various national policy orientations on the matter will be represented (I) as well as the social protection of people with disabilities (II).

I- Government policy for the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities

A. Axes of this policy

547. It hinges on three main axes, namely:

- **prevention of deficiencies** which include preventive treatment (early screening, prenatal, ante-natal and post-natal medical examinations as well as measures to fight against endemic diseases...) including social prevention (safety measures with the objective of avoiding accidents in the various milieu and the prevention of deficiencies resulting from environmental pollution and armed conflicts...);
- **rehabilitation of persons with disabilities** comprising the psycho-social assistance of persons (psychological direction, development of self-esteem, strengthening of relations with the various communities in order to reconcile persons with disabilities with themselves and

their environment...), special and inclusive education, medical rehabilitation and functional re-education, and

- **socio-economic integration** which affects access of people with disabilities to education, vocational training and employment, access to information, cultural activities, sports and leisure, access to infrastructure, housing, transportation and participation in political and civic life.

B. Activities carried out

548. In 2008, a national policy document for the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities was formulated and validated in 2009 by the National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Economic Reintegration of People with Disabilities. This policy document comprises the following priority axes:

- strengthening of the political, legal and institutional framework to create a legal and institutional environment conducive to the development of persons with disabilities;
- support for socio-economic reintegration aimed at improving access to socio-economic activities and infrastructure by persons with disabilities;
- strengthening of the capacity of the Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPH) through support for the motivation and training of their leaders;
- development of internal and external partnership, advocacy and resource mobilization in order to promote multi-sectorality and the creation of synergies for resources;
- strengthening of rehabilitation structures through the improvement of the provision of rehabilitation, re-education and prosthesis services;
- support for the enrolment of young persons with disabilities to encourage their access to education;
- strengthening of prevention and early screening of persons with disabilities for the organization of deficiency prevention campaigns, and
- strengthening of the capacity of social workers in order to equip the various actors to take care of people with disabilities.

II- Activities for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities

549. The government also took due account of the problems of people with disabilities over the period 2008-2012 with the following activities in particular:

2008 :

- signing on 1 October, 2008 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Additional Protocol;
- celebration of International Day of Disabled Persons (IDDP) on 3 December, 2008, under the theme: « *Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons: Dignity and Justice for All* »;
- holding of two meetings of the Board of Directors of the Etoug Ebé National Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (CNRH) in Yaoundé;
- validation of the draft decree on the organization of the Etoug Ebé CNRH in Yaoundé to convert the centre into a public administrative establishment of excellence in the sub-region;
- continuation of the pilot operation for the recruitment of persons with disabilities in Central Africa into the public service;
- participation in the organization of the first games for persons with disabilities in Central Africa, and
- commencement of the process of the formulation of the brochure on the white cane as a tool for the social reintegration of visually impaired persons.

550. 2009 :

- support for pupils of the Ekounou « *Bobine d'or* » Centre for the Training of Women with Disabilities during and after their training;
- training of fifty-two (52) persons with disabilities in secretaryship and the Internet, including thirty (30) at the Institut Africain d'Informatique (IAI-Cameroun) and twenty-two (22) at the Etoug Ebé Cardinal Paul Emile Leger National Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities;
- validation of the practical guide on the access of persons with disabilities to public buildings;
- conversion of the Etoug Ebé National Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (CNRH) in Yaoundé into a public administrative establishment with administrative and financial autonomy per Decree n° 2009/096 of 16 March, 2009. This decree established it as the Cardinal Paul Emile Leger Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, and
- continuation of the construction of the Maroua Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities with the support of the Italian NGO « *AIAS d'AFRAGOLA* » which provided a counterpart sum of FCFA 50,000,000 for health, sanitation, electricity, potable water and the monitoring of the attainment of these objectives.

551. 2010 :

- adoption of Law N° 2010/002 of 13 April, 2010 on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities which internalize the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and
- recruitment of hundred and ten (110) teachers with disabilities who obtained the CAPIEMP or the TEACHERS GRADE ONE CERTIFICATE at the end of the 2010 and 2011 academic years, as part of the contracting of general education teachers at the Ministry of Basic Education.

552. 2011 :

The following main activities were carried out:

- advocacy for the consideration of the disability approach in public infrastructure and edifices through the involvement of institutional partners with regard to infrastructure and edifices under construction by the MINAS (MINPMEESA : handicraft centres; MINDUH : social housing) ;
- on-going formulation of a procedural manual with the MINTP on the consideration of the environment and the social dimension in road construction projects;
- socio-economic integration and reintegration of persons with disabilities through the ICT training of 78 persons with disabilities at the IAI Cameroun ;
- computer training of persons with disabilities at the Yaoundé Sub-Regional Centre for the Training of Visually Impaired Persons; payment of the salaries of trainers was supported by the State through the budget of the MINAS which also supported the centre with logistics;
- equipping the CAMB agriculture, livestock, computer, automation and basketry workshops;
- continuation of construction work of the Maroua Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (CRPH);
- support with prostheses: tricycles, wheelchairs, white canes, crutches and hearing aids;
- allocation of aid and assistance in various forms: educational, medical and socio-economic assistance;
- granting of scholarships for vocational and apprenticeship training to vulnerable persons with disabilities by the MINEFOP for the 2011/2012 training year;
- equipping the carpentry workshop of the Bertoua Minors' Reception Centre (CAMB) with various machines;
- equipping the CAMB agriculture, livestock, computer, automation and basketry workshops;

- continuation of construction work at the Maroua Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (CRPH);
- support with prostheses: tricycles, wheelchairs, white canes, crutches and hearing aids, and
- allocation of aid and assistance in various forms: educational, medical and socio-economic assistance.

553. 2012 :

The following activities were carried out:

- review of three (03) draft implementing orders of Law N°2010/002 of 13 April, 2010 on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities;
- formulation of two (02) joint decrees determining the modalities for the free production and issuance of National Disability Cards and Special Medical Certificates;
- review and distribution of Guides on the access to education as well as public infrastructure and edifices by persons with disabilities;
- continuation of the improvement of the technical equipment and infrastructure of the Cardinal Paul Emile Leger National Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (CNRPH-CPEL) as well as the acquisition of equipment;
- continuation of construction work at the Maroua Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities as part of cooperation with the Italian NGO AIAS d'AFRAGOLA, and
- 31 March, 2013 – celebration, in solidarity with the international community, of the 6th World Day of Sensitization on Autism under the distinguished patronage of the First Lady under the theme: « Autism and Pervasive Disorder, the Urgency of Inclusive Education ». On the sidelines of this event was the celebration of the 7th edition of the Cameroon Day of Autism which is a newly discovered handicap characterized by the pervasive disorders of the brain of children, thereby preventing their social integration and development alongside normal children.

III- Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities

The following activities were carried out:

▪ At the legal level

554. The strengthening of the fight against social exclusion through the strengthening and improvement of the legal arsenal materialized through the adoption of Law n°2010/002 of 13 April, 2010 on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities. The main innovations focus particularly on the prevention of handicaps, the rehabilitation and socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities as well as the coercive nature of measures for the benefit of persons with disabilities together with criminal sanctions against duty bearers who shirk their expected duties.

555. As part of the operationalization of the said law, an enrichment and consolidation workshop on draft enabling laws took place in Mbalmayo from 08 to 12 November, 2010. The said draft documents were validated as part of the meeting of the National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Socio-economic Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities (CONRHA) on 26 and 27 November, 2010 in Yaoundé.

▪ At the institutional level

556.

- **The promotion of the socio-professional integration of persons with disabilities** through the strengthening and modernization of technical equipment as well as apprenticeship and initiation workshops on the profitable trades of the

Cardinal Paul Emile Leger National Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities with a total amount of FCFA 283,000,000, i.e. 435,384.61 Euros.

This centre was established as a public administrative body per Decree n° 2009-096 of 16 March, 2009;

- **The holding of the 1st Ordinary Session of the Board of Directors of the Cardinal Paul Emile Leger National Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (CNRPH)** in Yaoundé, following the appointment by decrees of the chairman and members of the Board of Directors by the Head of State as well as the Director-General and Deputy Director-General of the centre, and
- The working visit to Italy from 28 February to 6 March, 2010, as part of the continuation of the construction of the **Maroua Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (CRPH)** with the support of the Italian Cooperation Agency, following a partnership agreement signed on 20 July, 2004 between the Government of the Republic of Cameroon and the Italian Spastic Assistance Association (AIAS d'AFRAGOLA). This project is estimated at almost 900 million CFA Francs (i.e. 1,400 Euros).

IV- Socioprofessional integration of persons with disabilities:

557. The multi-sectoral activities focused on:

A) Support for the enrolment, training, socio-economic integration and reintegration of people with disabilities, through the following specific activities:

1. **On-going dissemination of the Monograph on trades accessible to persons with disabilities** in accordance with the types of deficiencies. The said document aims at sensitizing all the social stakeholders, employers, economic operators, research and professional placement bodies on the potentials of persons with disabilities with regard to employment vis-à-vis the respect of their dignity and based on equality with other persons;
2. **Continuation of sensitization for the ownership of the standards contained in the practical guide on the access by persons with disabilities to infrastructure and edifices which are public or open to the public.** This guide is part of the execution of the legal and regulatory provisions and the terms of Circular N°003/CAB/PM of 18 April, 2008 relating to compliance with the rules governing the award, execution and control of public contracts through which the Prime Minister and Head of State required all clients and their representatives to ensure that, at the technical level, projects for the construction of buildings, public buildings and roads factor the « **handicap approach** » into the specific concerns relating to access by persons with disabilities. The said guide was transmitted electronically to the heads of ministries in particular and most of whom reacted favourably to it. It is available on the site www.armp.cm;
3. **Support for the organization in Yaoundé of the 4th Autism Days from 30 March to 2 April, 2010** under the distinguished patronage of the First Lady, Madam Chantal Biya, as part of the 3rd World Autism Awareness Day under the theme: « **For the better care of children affected by autism and pervasive developmental disorders** »;
4. **production of sensitization aids on the language of the white cane (brochures, pamphlets) ;**

558.

5. **Organization of the 19th edition of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December, 2010** under the theme « **Keeping promises: Mainstreaming Disabilities into the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and Beyond** ». Among the activities retained, mention can be made of the following: socio-educational exchanges, sporting activities, communications for behavioural and attitudinal change, validation of the report of the African

Decade of People with Disabilities, organization of the CONRHA meeting, organization of the sensitization day under the theme : « **Let's love our children with disabilities – Let's bring our children out** », on the white stick, the National Disability Card ; the organization of a fair and a sub-regional training and advocacy seminar on the Convention relating to the rights of persons with disabilities in partnership with the United Nations Centre on Human Rights and Democracy in Africa in Central Africa, UNICEF and Sight Savers International.

559.

6. Materialization of the partnership with the other ministries by the following:

- **advocacy with the Ministry of Basic Education which led to the recruitment of hundred and ten (110) teachers with disabilities who obtained the CAPIEMP or the TEACHER'S GRADE ONE CERTIFICATE** after the 2010 and 2011 academic years, as part of the contracting of general education teachers at the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Administrative Reforms (MINFOPRA);
- **introduction of a register of expertise for persons with disabilities;**
- **training of twenty-eight (28) persons with disabilities in automation and Internet techniques at the IAI-Cameroon**, i.e. a total number of 200 persons with disabilities trained in the use of the computer and the mastery of ICT since 2006 ;
- **finalization and transmission of the draft National Policy Document on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities to the departments under the Prime Minister and Head of Government;**
- **training with the support of the ILO of 20 persons in the establishment and management of companies in Douala, and**
- **granting of twenty-four (24) scholarships for vocational training and apprenticeship for vulnerable persons with disabilities** by the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP) for the 2010/2011 training year;

V- Continuation of the implementation of the provisions of joint MINAS-MINESEC and MINAS-MINESUP circulars relating to the la facilitation of access to education by children with disabilities and those born to destitute parents, particularly free admission into public secondary schools and multifaceted assistance in state universities and measures for their equitable participation in official examinations;

560.

VI- Follow-up of the implementation of the provisions of the circular from the Prime Minister and Head of Government, relating to the consideration of the specific accessibility needs of persons with disabilities in buildings and edifices which are public and open to the public;

561.

VII- Diversification of the provision of socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities through the signing of a partnership agreement with the Mission for the Promotion of Local Materials (MIPROMALO) for the training of young people with disabilities in the manufacture of appropriate construction materials.

VIII-

IX-Equipment

562. In this regard, FCFA 118,500,000 went into the acquisition of specific equipment for the Cardinal Paul Emile Leger Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities and 2 centres for the training of persons with disabilities.

Besides, the Ministry of Social Affairs facilitated the provision of prostheses, teaching materials and various types of equipment during the social welfare days, international days of persons with disabilities and other events.

PART FIVE:

IMPLEMENTATION OF PEOPLES' RIGHTS

Chapter 1: THE RIGHT TO THE EQUALITY OF PEOPLES (ARTICLE 19)

563. This chapter takes note of the overall orientations regarding the right to equality for the peoples of Cameroon (Section I) and lays particular emphasis on the protection of indigenous populations (Section II).

SECTION I: OVERALL ORIENTATIONS ON THE RIGHT TO THE EQUALITY OF PEOPLES

564. Cameroon is a multi-ethnic country where more than 230 ethnic groups (determined depending on dialects) cohabit peacefully and is made up of several religious groups, among which mention can be made of the following, among others, of Christians, Muslims and animists. As a legacy of colonization, French and English are the two official languages, as against so many national languages as well as ethnic groups.

565. This ethnic diversity, which far from constitutes a factor of conflict or an obstacle to cohabitation, is rather considered by the authorities and the people as a factor of mutual enrichment. The well understood and accepted objective by all is that a true Nation where each citizen feels at home everywhere will be methodically, gradually and eventually built on this basis.
566. The attainment of this objective consists of the elimination of all forms of discrimination which the government looks for through the following programmes:
- National integration through peaceful co-existence and the socio-cultural interpenetration of the ethnic groups and other differences;
 - Balanced development of the regions;
 - Equitable distribution of the efforts and fruits of growth;
 - Democratization and liberalization;
 - Protection of minorities and disadvantaged groups. Cameroon, as one of the essential thrusts of its social project, is desirous of guaranteeing equality of rights, equality before the law, the compulsory nature of the promotion of all human rights as well as the safety of the human person for all the segments of its population.

Section II- Protection of indigenous populations

567. As part of the promotion and protection of indigenous populations, discussions began on the identification of indigenous populations in Cameroon (§1) and their socio-economic inclusion (§2).

§ 1: Discussions on the identification of indigenous populations in Cameroon

568. To examine the difficulty linked to the definition of indigenous populations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with CNUDHD-AC, *Plan Cameroon* and the ILO, organized a validation workshop at Kribi on the first phase of the study on the identification of indigenous populations in Cameroon from 14 to 16 December, 2011.
569. At the end of this meeting, a select committee made up of government stakeholders, civil society organizations, agencies of the United Nations system, academics, a representative from the Baka communities and another representative from the Mbororo communities was constituted. This committee is tasked with the recommendation of criteria for the identification of indigenous populations during the second phase of this study⁵⁴. These criteria will, at the end of the study, ensure the definition of the notion of indigenous populations, on the one hand, in the light of international standards for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, and the identification of the groups which come under this category, on the other. Besides, a film on the situation of the Mbororo indigenous communities was produced in 2011 by the MBOSCUDA NGO with support from the ACHPR.

§2 Socio-economic inclusion of indigenous populations

570. It materialized through activities in the area of access to citizenship (A), vocational training (B) and the consideration of the interests of indigenous populations in the forestry policy and hydroelectric projects (C).

⁵⁴ The second phase of this study will consist of an *in situ* identification of indigenous populations in accordance with the retained criteria.

A- Access to citizenship

571. To facilitate access to citizenship, after the census of certain vulnerable indigenous populations (Pygmies and Mbororos) in 8 regions of Cameroon, official documents were issued to them. For 2011, the number of national identity cards rose to 6,600 and 4 253 declaratory judgments in lieu of birth certificates issued, including 1,500 birth certificates for children.

B- Vocational Training of Pygmies

572. In order to check social exclusion, 4 young pygmies who are holders of the BEPC were admitted into the Mbalmayo School of Water and Forestry Resources to be trained as technical water and forestry resources officers. During their training, the government proposed that fees covering their registration, tuition, teaching materials, school uniforms, clothes and boarding should be absorbed. This admission results from a joint effort of the MNAS and MINFOF as part of the Pygmy development plan within the framework of the forest-environment sector programme (PSFE).

C- Consideration of the interests of indigenous populations in the forest policy and hydroelectric projects

573. In order to consider the needs of the Pygmies with regard to socio-economic inclusion in the implementation of the forest policy, a Pygmy development plan, as part of the forest-environment sector programme (PSFE), has been initiated. This plan particularly ensured the **provision of multifaceted aids** (material, financial and logistical) to the Pygmy populations of the Djoum, Lolodorf and Bipindi districts in the South as well as Ngambé Tikar and Yoko in the Central region, and the **production of a monograph on the situation of the Pygmy populations.**

574. In order to define the environmental and social effects of the big hydroelectric projects vis-à-vis the efforts made by the Government, and to ensure that indigenous populations are better protected, the environmental and social capacity strengthening project of the energy sector (PRECESSE) has been formulated. In 2010, this project ensured the following:

- carrying out of 03 exploratory missions in Southern and Littoral regions in order to assess the level of involvement and consideration of the needs of the local populations in the execution of works leading to the setting up of big projects;
- provision of socio-economic aids (farm implements, seeds, equipment ...);
- **carrying out of a diagnostic situational study** in order to determine the problem of rights and to identify the priority needs of vulnerable indigenous populations affected by big development projects, and
- **provision of rolling stock (06 4x4 vehicles)** for the implementation and monitoring of outreach activities in the various locations of vulnerable indigenous populations.

575. Efforts are being made to ensure that more care is taken of indigenous populations. However, some obstacles remain.

Chapter 2: RIGHT TO FREE DISPOSAL OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT, 21 AND 22

576. Cameroon is endowed with substantial natural resources, the exploitation of which is incorporated in the development vision specified above. The right to free disposal of natural resources (Section I), therefore, contributes, together with other factors, to the guarantee of the right to development (Section II).

Section I- RIGHT TO FREE DISPOSAL OF NATURAL RESOURCES

577. In the natural resource management policy, the State guarantees the involvement of the people. With regard to forest and wildlife resources, for example, the allocation of community forests and community managed hunting zones (ZICGC) ensure the involvement of the local populations. For example, this policy ensured that the following activities were carried out over the last three years:

- approval of 42 Simple Community Forest Management Plans (PSG), bringing the total number of PSGs to 302;
- granting of 262 Final Management Agreements and 98 Provisional Management Agreements, i.e. a total of 909,459.27 ha of the total surface area of the community forest requested and 360, 457.93 ha of the surface area under provisional agreement (reserved);
- demarcation of 24 Community Forests and Community Managed Hunting Zones and 02 co-management zones, and
- planting of about 231,575 trees.

578. The forest sector is the second biggest source of export revenue after hydrocarbons. It accounted for 16% of national export revenue in 2003 and nearly 6% of GDP. The local people have a share in the revenue generated from the exploitation of these resources. Thus, since

1998, the local authorities have been beneficiaries of a system of release of part of the tax receipts generated by forestry. Out of these receipts, 50% of the royalty is allocated to the Treasury, 40% to the city council and 10% to the village committees tasked with managing forest royalties. Between 2000 and 2011, an amount of FCFA 63,729 billion was redistributed to the local authorities. In order to ensure a more equitable distribution of these resources and a better impact of these resources on the standard of living of the people, the distribution format was reviewed and a mechanism to monitor the use of these funds was introduced per a decree of **26 June, 2012**. **This reorientation has to do with the concern to guarantee the right of the people to development.**

Section II- RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

579. The development vision of the State has been stated above. In order to guarantee the actual benefit of the activities carried out, the improvement of governance was retained as a strategic thrust (§1). The status of implementation of various rights already presented above allows one to assess the efforts already made. In this part, the significant infrastructural development activities will be presented (§2).

§1) Improvement of governance as a guarantee of the right to development

580. Activities in this regard focused on the improvement of the business environment (A) and the fight against corruption and the misappropriation of public funds (B).

A- Improvement of the business environment

581. Measures retained for the improvement of the business environment have to do with the strengthening of dialogue with the private sector, harmonization of the legal framework with the OHADA law and the implementation of the Investment Charter. In this regard, a framework for dialogue with the private sector called the **Cameroon Business Forum**, which brings together the members of government responsible for economic issues, private sector operators led by GICAM, representatives of the International Finance Corporation, *Doing Business* and the World Bank OHADA project, was established in 2010. Three meetings of this body which were held from 2010 to 2012 tackled the issues of taxation, the setting up of businesses and the settlement of trade disputes.

B- Fight against corruption and misappropriation of public funds

582. With regard to the fight against corruption and misappropriation of public funds, non-judicial mechanisms (1) and judicial mechanisms (2) have continued to be deployed.

1) Non-judicial mechanisms

Institutions like the National Anti-Corruption Commission (CONAC) (a), National Financial Investigations Agency (ANIF) (b) and the High State Audit Agency (CONSUPE) have carried out activities (c).

a) Activities of the CONAC

583. A national anti-corruption strategy was adopted under the auspices of the CONAC. It is tasked with prevention, control and sanctions. With regard to prevention, a national integrity sensitization programme has been formulated. On control, the National Anti-Corruption Coalition, a framework for consultations and action with the aim of bringing together experiences, resources and expertise in the matter, was launched on 19 November, 2008 after consultations

with civil society stakeholders. Its current members come from trade unions, associations, opinion leaders, the media, human rights activists and secular and religious institutions. The Coalition falls in line with the activity of the CONAC in the same way as the monitoring-evaluation committees, eight (08) of which were instituted in 2011. On the handling of exposure, CONAC received 2268 petitions from 2008 to 2011 on corruption and related offences, among which 310 were being investigated at the end of 2011. These exposures enabled the CONAC to conduct investigations on projects financed by the public purse in the ministries and public enterprises.

b) Activities of the ANIF

584. The National Financial Investigations Agency which is involved in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism received 775 reports on suspicious transactions from 2009 to 2012 and forwarded 219 dockets to the Prosecutor' Department. These dockets are on cases of misappropriation of public funds, corruption, swindling, dealings in miscellaneous products, tax evasion, customs fraud and misuse of corporate funds. It should be emphasized that in line with Regulation n° 01/03/CEMAC/UMAC/CM of 04 April, 2003 on the prevention and crackdown on money laundering in Central Africa, Decree n° 0000014/CF/MINFI of 26 March, 2009 sets the reporting threshold at the ANIF FCFA 5,000,000 (five million). The application of this decree enabled the ANIF to collect 40,000 (forty thousand) automatic reports in the course of 2009.

c) Activities of the CONSUPE

585. With regard to the High State Audit Agency, the Permanent Secretariat received 20 mission reports in 2011 for study. Fourteen (14) of these concerned the missions on the Public Investment Budget (BIP). The use of these reports ensured that 883 authorizing officers/managers were brought before the Budgetary and Financial Disciplinary Council (CDBF). From 2009 to 2010, the CDBF investigated twenty-six (26) public credit authorizing officers and managers.

586. In 2009, it pronounced sanctions against twelve (12) of them for an offence estimated at FCFA 39,105,775,172 (thirty nine billion one hundred and five million seven hundred and seventy five thousand one hundred and seventy two francs). In 2010, the CDBF imposed special fines in the total sum of **FCFA 14,189,100 (fourteen million one hundred and eighty-nine thousand one hundred francs)** and ordered one of the managers to refund public monies. Besides, it acquitted 07 persons for unsubstantiated mismanagement and said it had no jurisdiction in one other case.

587. In 2011, the CDBF held ten sessions. At the end of some of them, it pronounced various sanctions. These were special fines imposed on six accused persons and four public funds repayment orders. The sanctions amounted to **FCFA 130,485,069⁵⁵**. Besides, ten (10) persons were acquitted for unsubstantiated mismanagement, while some dockets were referred to other bodies – one (01) to the Ministry of Justice, being a complaint on behalf of the State, and four (04) to the Audit Chamber of the Supreme Court owing to the status of the concerned persons as public accountants.

2) Judicial mechanisms

588. At the judicial level, the complexity of proceedings in cases of misappropriation of public funds and related offences justified the establishment, on 14 December, 2011, of a Special

⁵⁵ i.e. about 199, 213. 85 euros.

Criminal Court with jurisdiction for cases where the amounts involved exceed FCFA 50,000,000. At the end of the 2011 legal year, 76 cases concerning dockets in this category were pending before the country's courts and involved persons from diverse backgrounds, particularly very top officials of the public service, and including a former Prime Minister, chiefs of staff at the Presidency, ministers, managing-directors of state and para-statal companies, etc...

§2). Significant activities towards infrastructural development

- 589.** Some big structural projects for which provision has been made in the DSCE were initiated during the reference period. In the main, these are the Kribi deep sea port project, the Kribi gas power plants as well as the Lom Pangar, Memve'ele and Mekin hydroelectric dam projects.
- 590.** As part of the structural projects, particular attention is paid to the local populations or those in the areas through which the project passes. These must be provided with electricity or potable water, depending on the case. During the execution stage, the welfare of local and national manpower is a real component of the project. The same goes for the incorporation of the use of local materials and local sub-contracting in each of the projects.

Chapter 4: RIGHT TO PEACE AND SECURITY (ARTICLE 23 OF THE CHARTER)

- 591.** The safeguarding of the peace remains one of the priorities of Cameroon. Indeed, peace and security are prerequisites for the enjoyment of civil, economic and cultural rights from the view point of the indivisibility and interdependence of these rights. The State is taking measures to guarantee the right to peace and security both in the hinterlands (Section I) and at the international level (Section II).

SECTION I: MEASURES TO FIGHT AGAINST INSECURITY AT THE INTERNAL LEVEL

- 592.** To deal with certain threats such as the phenomenon of highway bandits, abductions, cattle rustling, acts of violence perpetrated by the Boko Haram sect, maritime piracy, etc., the Government took special measures.
- 593.** Concerning the resurgence of acts of violence in 2010-2011 by the Boko Haram sect, all the traditional authorities, defence and security forces in the northern regions bordering Nigeria have been sensitized to seal off their roads to members of this sect, particularly those who abuse the hospitality of the Cameroonian people and try to perpetuate their fundamentalist doctrines. Besides, every preaching session is subjected to prior administrative authorization after consultations with local religious officials. Cameroon is ready to cooperate with its neighbour Nigeria to fight the followers of this sect. Measures to strengthen border surveillance have been taken to prevent the infiltration of followers of the sect into Cameroon. An agreement on the setting up of a Joint Transboundary Security Committee was signed in February, 2012.
- 594.** In order to combat the phenomenon of highway bandits, a special force, the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR), has been formed. Its deployment was extended to the Bakassi area to deal with the insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea. Extension and provision of mobile communication equipment to the gendarmerie units in the areas at risk are also on-going.

Section II: Right to peace and security at the international level

§1) At the sub-regional level

- 595.** Central Africa is plagued by various crises and conflicts which are hindering its development, in spite of its potentials. Yet, the states of this sub-region aspire to find ways and means of meeting the desire of their peoples to a better life.
- 596.** In a sub-region plagued by crises and conflicts, Cameroon, which is pursuing its policy of promoting and preserving the peace, initiated the appropriate process with the neighbouring countries facing several threats to the peace, among which mention can be made of organized crime or the phenomenon of highway bandits, acts of violence perpetrated by the Boko Haram sect, illegal circulation of weapons and maritime piracy...
- 597.** In the face of the canker of the proliferation of light arms and small weapons, and in a bid to combat cross-border insecurity due to the porous nature of the borders, it proposed the establishment of Joint Security and Border Commissions with its neighbouring countries. Already, these commissions have been established with Chad and the DRC and sessions were held in 2009, 2010 and 2013. It went on to sign the agreement on the establishment of the Joint Transboundary Security Committee with Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon in February, 2012, August, 2012 and September, 2012 respectively.
- 598.** Besides, Cameroon, a founding member of the Central African Peace and Security Council (COPAX) takes part in the various related meetings as well as those of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Issues in Central Africa (CCNUQSAC). These frameworks ensure the formulation of strategies for the preservation of peace and security in the sub-region. They are effective tools for conflict prevention, conflict resolution and arms control in Central Africa. They contribute to confidence-building among the States of the sub-region. After hosting the 27th meeting of the Advisory Committee on the issues of security in Central Africa in September, 2007, Cameroon took part in all the other meetings organized by the Advisory Committee in other member countries from 2008 to 2012. These were, among others, the 29th CCNUQSAC meeting held in Ndjamena in November, 2009, the 30th meeting held in Kinshasa in April, 2010, the 32nd meeting held in March, 2011 in Sao Tomé, the 33rd meeting held in Bangui in December, 2011 and the 34th meeting held in Brazzaville in 2012. Moreover, in 2011, Cameroon signed the Convention on the control of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all other parts and components which could be used for their manufacture, repairs and assembly or the Kinshasa Convention. The ratification process is on-going.
- 599.** One of the major challenges at the moment is the fight against maritime piracy and the security of the maritime zones of the Gulf of Guinea. To confront these, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tomé and Príncipe, within the framework of ECCAS, signed a Technical Agreement on the introduction of a surveillance plan for the security of « Zone D » of the Gulf of Guinea. The joint patrols arising out of the signing of the first maritime security plan, i.e. « SECMAR 1 », and the operationalization of the Douala Multilateral Cooperation Centre and the Pointe Noire Central African Regional Maritime Centre (CRESMAC) are welcome developments.
- 600.** In spite of all these efforts made by the countries of the sub-region, the coasts of the Gulf of Guinea and particularly on the Bakassi peninsula remain unsafe, with especially the abduction of the deputy prefect of Akwaya on 6 February, 2011 and its consequences and the attack of the Mbonjo Brigade in the night of 6 to 7 February, 2011, which led to the loss of human lives.

601. In order to check this canker, Cameroon agreed to host the International Conference on the Security of the Maritime Zones in the Gulf of Guinea with the support of ECCAS, the African Union, the UN, ECOWAS, the Gulf of Guinea Commission and other bilateral and multilateral partners from 17 to 18 May, 2013. With the support of the ONODC, a national workshop was organized in Douala from 18 to 21 October, 2013 on the implementation of the universal instruments relating to the security of maritime navigation in respect of the fight against international terrorism for magistrates of the sub-region who are involved in the fight against terrorism and/or maritime security.

§2) At the continental and international level

602. Cameroon takes part in the peacekeeping operations led by the UN, the African Union or ECCAS. Among others, one can hail the participation of Cameroonian troops in peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, ONUCI, the peace consolidation mission in the CAR (MICOPAX I) and the sending of experts to the mission in Sudan and Somalia.

603. Besides, Cameroon has established the AWAE International School for Security Forces (EIFORCES) which has become a centre of excellence of ECCAS. With support from multilateral (EU) and bilateral (France, China, Canada...) partners, EIFORCES is training Africans in peacekeeping operations. It is taking part in the strengthening of the intervention capacity of Africans for the consolidation of peace and post-conflict reconstruction.

604. On the other hand, in order to contribute to the Peace Architecture of the African Union, Cameroon offered to host Continental Logistics Base of the African Stand-by Force in Douala. This initiative was given effect to by a decision adopted during the 16th Conference of the African Union held in January, 2011 in Addis-Ababa (Ethiopia).

605. Besides, Cameroon has since January, 2012 been a member of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. Its two-year term takes effect from March, 2012. Against this background, it hosted, on 15 and 16 November, 2012, the 2nd Retreat of Ambassadors of Member Countries of the African Union's Peace and Security Council dedicated to the evaluation of the general running and working methods of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. Together with the other countries of the Central African sub-region, it deployed troops to the CAR in January, 2013 in order to ensure the security and stability of that country after it was rocked by a serious crisis in December, 2012.

606. It should be emphasized that Cameroon's endeavours to safeguard the peace were crowned in May, 2010 by the handing-over of the peace flame in Yaoundé to H.E. Mr. Paul Biya, President of the Republic, by the President of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping.

Chapter 5: RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT (ARTICLE 24 OF THE CHARTER)

607. The attainment of a healthy environment in Cameroon during the reference period can be divided into various activities aimed at combatting pollution and poor sanitation (section I), the protection of biodiversity and the sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources (section II) as well as sanctions for infractions of the forest and environmental law (section III). Although the presentation relating to this right lays emphasis on data for 2011, it also makes reference to some data of the previous years.

SECTION I: FIGHT AGAINST POLLUTION AND POOR SANITATION

608. Beyond the strengthening of the legal framework, the activities focused on hygiene campaigns, health campaigns and waste management (§1) and environmental inspections (§2).

§ 1 : Hygiene and sanitation campaigns

609. In order to ensure the development of the urban and rural areas and to improve the health of the local populations, hygiene and health activities were carried out. In this regard, a partnership between the departments of the Ministry of the Environment and the decentralized local authorities was instituted in all of the country's regions. In 2010, these departments designed and sent out a questionnaire to a sample of 14 pilot communities (settlements of between 50,000 and 100,000 inhabitants) which are not beneficiaries of the services of the HYSACAM company. The goal was to grasp and analyze the problem of the management of household, plastic and hospital waste. "Clean city" operations were organized with the institution of health and sanitation days in some towns.

§ 2: Environmental inspections

610. Environmental inspections enabled the officials of the relevant departments to ensure that the environmental regulations on the use, circulation and importation of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) are applied by the heads of the inspected agencies, particularly the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol, the Common Regulations on the control of the consumption of ozone-depleting substances within the CEMAC region as well as the framework law relating to the management of the environment and its enforcement provisions. In 2010, in the Littoral region, 100 reports on offences were prepared for proposed fines estimated at FCFA 321,000,000. In 2011, nearly 858 environmental inspections were carried out throughout the various regions of the country.

611. On the whole, these inspections ensured that environmental measures were taken into account, particularly in the area of audit and environmental impact assessments. However, to ensure better efficiency, it is recommended that adequate staff should be assigned to this area

and provided with the material resources to perform their duties. In the Adamaoua region, for example, emphasis was laid on the shortage of certified inspectors in the branches of the ministries as well the lack of technical resources.

SECTION II: PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

612. Activities to protect biodiversity were carried out, particularly as part of reforestation operations (§1) and the sustainable management of forests (§2).

§1- Reforestation operations

613. The Government of the Republic of Cameroon adopted an ambitious National Reforestation Programme in 2006 to cover dense forests, community forests, humid savannah zones, reforestation perimeters, forest plantations as well as urban and peri-urban forests in order to ensure the following:

- Maintenance of the potential of permanent forests through regeneration activities in the Forest Management Units (FMUs);
- Maintenance of the forest reserves in the reforestation perimeters (which are also part of the permanent forest estate), some of which can be converted into FMUs or transferred to the local communities, and
- Maintenance of the forest reserves of community forests through the regeneration of exploited forests and the plantation of multiple-purpose trees.

614. Given the gradual degradation of the vegetation cover, the Government undertook to help NGOs, associations and districts engaged in reforestation projects with the strategy introduced to restore Cameroon's vegetation cover. In 2010, this support culminated in the reforestation of nearly 1,000 hectares thanks to the financial assistance of about FCFA 600 million provided to 80 districts, 26 NGOs and associations which had land and an effective reforestation project.

615. For the year 2011, the Government signed agreements with 125 districts, 40 traditional chieftaincy authorities and 05 NGOs and associations on 3 August, 2011 to provide them with financial assistance in the sum of FCFA 760,000,000. The common objective was to plant 560,000 trees on cumulated surface areas of about 1,400 hectares. In addition to the financial assistance, these partners were provided with technical support through their decentralized departments. In all, 72 districts and 27 associations/NGOs were privileged to have their reforestation activities supported by the Forestry Department.

§2- Preservation and sustainable management of forests

A) At the national level

616. The sustainable forest management means the management and use of forests and forested lands with the aim of maintaining their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and capacity to perform the relevant ecological, economic and social functions at the local,

national and global levels. It also means that they should not cause harm to other ecosystems. The Government endeavoured to ensure the sustainable management of forests through the following themes:

- Forest management, which comprises the monitoring of the forest cover and the reserve as well as the management of the production forests of the permanent forest estate and the management of mangroves;
- Communal and community forestry, which includes the development of community forests as well as the strengthening of the districts and the other stakeholders;
- Reforestation and regeneration of forest resources. This is an activity with a high employment and wealth generation potential through the sale of forest products as well as the collection of revenue from the payment for environmental services;
- Institutional reform of the sector, particularly by placing emphasis on training, retraining of personnel as well as the strengthening of the capacity of the Mbalmayo National School of Forestry and Water Resources and the Garoua School of Wildlife Studies;
- ***The improvement of governance with the deepening of transparency and the systematic use of public information.*** This materialized particularly through the following:
 - competitiveness in the issuance of logging permits through the opening of competitive national tenders and the holding of public tender evaluation sessions. The publication of tender bids in the press and on the website of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife at: www.minfof-cm.org.
 - institution of three levels of independent forestry control observers (IOs). An independent observer attends all tender sessions, prepares a report on possible irregularities and problems and recommends improvements. A second independent observer takes care of the procedures for the detection of land offences and a third independent observer participates in the surveillance of the forest estate through satellite imaging (World Resource Initiative);
 - establishment of a national monitoring brigade as well as regional and departmental brigades;
 - tendency towards the cleaning up of the small logging permit system by reducing the phenomenon to the barest minimum, and
 - publication of the list of offences in the newspapers and on the website of the MINFOF.

617. In the area of the permanent forest estate, efforts towards sustainable management for 2011 and 2012 were characterized by the following:

- signing of the APV FLEGT with the European Union in order to demarcate exploited timber, thereby limiting fraud;
- continuation of the classification of production forests of the permanent forest estate (UFA, communal forests and production reserves);
- continuation of the management of production forests through the supervision of the formulation and approval of management plans of the UFAs and communal forests;
- twenty-eight (28) final forest concession agreements were signed in 2012, as against twenty-one (21) in 2011 and nine (09) in 2010;
- twelve (12) provisional UFA agreements were signed in 2012, thereby bringing the number to ninety-nine (99).
- continuation of the classification of forests for the benefit of the local authorities in favour of the decentralization of the forest sector. To date, twelve (12) districts have communal forests, and the produce of these forests is contributing to the local development of these districts. Twenty-nine (29) others are at various stages of the classification procedure and

will ultimately lead to the management of close to a million hectares of forests by the decentralized local authorities.

B) At the regional and international level:

618. Cameroon, as a member of COMIFAC, took part in meetings relating to the organization. Besides, our country took part in the meetings of African Ministers of Forestry and the Environment as well as the Summit of the Three Forest Wetland Basins in Brazzaville in June, 2011 and the Rio+20 Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 2012 on sustainable development.

SECTION III: FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTES

619. Disputes were managed both in forest and wildlife sector (§1) and in the environmental sector (§2).

§1: Forest and wildlife sector

In this sector, a distinction should be made between disputes which lead to administrative (A) and judicial (B) proceedings.

A/ Proceedings before administrative bodies

620. Among others, recorded offences had to do with the illegal possession of trophies of protected species, killing of Class A and B animals, illegal logging and trafficking in protected species. Disputes in this area are managed in two ways: first, at the level of the MINFOF, as part of the transaction and, secondly, by the relevant judicial bodies. The number of wildlife-related offences recorded from 2009 to 2011 rose to forty-two (42) and the number of forestry offences dropped from one hundred and twenty-one (121) over the period 2009-2011 to seventy-one (71) in 2012 (24 settled and 47 pending).

B/ Proceedings before judicial bodies

- ❖ The status of forestry disputes was twelve (12) pending cases as at 31 December, 2012.
- ❖ At the wildlife level, thirty-two (32) cases were opened. 18 are pending, while 14 have been settled. Most of these disputes are settled by the relevant judicial bodies and they have to do with the following offences: possession, movement and trade in protected animals and killing of fully protected Class A animals (elephants⁵⁶, mandrills⁵⁷ and sea turtle shells⁵⁸), illegal

⁵⁶ MP and MINFOF vs. OUMAROU BOUBA and Others case, subject of the ruling of the Douala-Bonanjo TPI of 11/07/2011 ordering the payment of FCFA 300,000 (i.e. about 458.02 euros) in damages; FCFA 100,000 (i.e. about 152.67 euros) in costs; FCFA 5,000,000 (i.e. about 7,633.59 euros) in fines, suspended term of imprisonment for 05 years and return of the seals to the MINFOF (ivory trophies); 09 months of coercive detention in the event of non-payment and an arrest warrant issued at the hearing.

⁵⁷ MP and MINFOF vs. MINKO MINKO ALAIN and ANGO JACQUES case, subject of the ruling of the Ebolowa TPI ordering payment of FCFA 547,500 (i.e. about 835.88 euros) in damages, 02 months custodial sentence for ANGO and 250,000 (i.e. about 381.68 euros) in fines.

⁵⁸ MP and MINFOF vs. DELE TOUMOLO JUDE case, subject of the ruling of the Edéa TPI ordering payment of FCFA 630,000 (i.e. about 961.83 euros) in damages; FCFA 32 000 (i.e. about 48.85 euros) in costs; FCFA 150,000 (i.e. about 229 euros) in fines; return of the seals to the MINFOF (turtle shells); 06 months of coercive detention in the event of non-payment and arrest warrant issued at the hearing.

possession of two small game hunting fire arms and illegal possession of Class B and C animal carcasses when the hunting season has closed.

§2 : Environmental sector

621. Disputes in the environmental sector were referred to both administrative bodies (A) and judicial bodies (B).

A/ Disputes before administrative bodies

Some cases were recorded in 2001 and have been shown in the following table:

Table 50: Summary Table of Opened Cases

Accused Companies	Nature of Offences
NOVEL COMPANY	Default in carrying out the environmental audit of installations and activities (3,000,000 ⁵⁹ in fines; docket forwarded to the MINEPDED)
MOORE PARAGON COMPANY	Default in carrying out the environmental audit of installations and activities (3 000 000 ⁶⁰ docket forwarded to the MINEPDED)
CAMEROON OIL COMPANY COMPANY (CAMOCO)	Commencement of construction work on a service station without an environmental compliance certificate following the carrying out of an environmental impact assessment (3 000 000 ⁶¹ in fines; docket forwarded to the MINEPDED)
SAFMARINE ANGOLA SHIP	Pollution of the Wouri waters through the dumping of water from septic tanks (sewage) (25 000 000 ⁶² in fines; a settlement for a minimum fine was sought by the offender; docket forwarded to the MINEPDED)
CHIMIQUE CAMEROUNAIS COMPANY (CCC)	Pollution of land and risk of degradation of water resources by the dumping of hydrocarbons on the land and the release of residual water from the activities of the structures into nature without prior processing. (5 000 000 ⁶³ in fines; docket forwarded to the MINEPDED)
CAMOA AIR LIQUIDE COMPANY	Default in carrying out the environmental audit of installations and activities (3 000 000 ⁶⁴ in fines; notice of fine signed by the DR/LT)
PARQUET CAM COMPANY	Default in carrying out the environmental audit of installations and activities (3 000 000 ⁶⁵ in fines; docket forwarded to the MINEPDED)

Source : MINEPDED

Following the report of an environmental offence, the offender receives a notice of the fine to be paid, and which notice he may accept or contest, as indicated by the following table.

Table 51: SYNOPTIC TABLE OF NOTICES OF FINES

⁵⁹ i.e. about 4,580. 15 euros.

⁶⁰ *Idem.*

⁶¹ i.e. about 4,580. 15 euros.

⁶² i.e. about 38,167. 94 euros.

⁶³ i.e. about 7,633. 59 euros.

⁶⁴ *Idem*

⁶⁵ *Idem*

NOTICE OF FINE				
Total Number of Notices of Fines Proposed	Total Number of Notices of Actual Fines	Total Amount of Actually Notified Fines (in FCFA)	Number of Bodies which have paid	Total Amount of Fines Actually Recovered in 2011 (in FCFA)
1	08	61, 000,000 ⁶⁶	08	53, 000,000 ⁶⁷
CHALLENGES OF FINES				
Body or Installation	Location	Particulars of Offence	Amount of Fine (in FCFA)	
ORANGE Cameroun	Douala	Air and Land Pollution	5 000 000 ⁶⁸	
Total :			5 000 000	

Source : MINEPDED

B/ Proceedings before the courts

The following table presents the status of judicial disputes with respect to pollution before certain courts.

Table 52: Synoptic Table of Statistics on Pollution

Offences	Number of Investigations	Number of Proceedings Initiated		Number of Sentences	Number of Acquittals/Releases	Victims			Perpetrators		
		For Judicial Investigation	Before Trial Courts			H	F	E	Personnel tasked with the Application of the Law	Persons with authority on the Victim	Others
Pollution	11 ⁶⁹	03 ⁷⁰	08 ⁷¹	05	03	01	00	00	00	00	04

Source : MINJUSTICE

SECTION IV: MANAGEMENT OF FLOODS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY

622. Following the natural disaster, coupled with the humanitarian emergency caused by the floods which were caused by the torrential rains of the River Bénoué in the Northern region, on the one hand, and the rupture of certain sections of the protective dyke of Lake Maga in the Upper region from the middle of August to the end of October, 2012, on the other, the

⁶⁶ i.e. about 93, 129. 77 euros.

⁶⁷ i.e. about 80, 916. 03 euros.

⁶⁸ i.e. about 7,633.59 euros.

⁶⁹ Data collected from 07 courts distributed as follows: 01 in the South-West (03 cases handled by the Ndian Prosecutor's Office); 04 in the Littoral region (02 cases handled by the Douala-Bonanjo TPI, 01 handled by the Prosecutor's Office at the Edéa District Courts, 01 case handled by the Prosecutor's Office at the Yabassi District and High Courts); and 02 in the Central region (01 case handled by the Prosecutor's Office at the Yaoundé-Ekounou TPI and 02 by the Yaoundé-Administrative Centre TPI).

⁷⁰ Data collected from the Ndian Prosecutor's Office.

⁷¹ Data collected from 05 courts distributed as follows: 1 in the South-West region (03 cases handled by the Ndian Prosecutor's Office); 02 in the Central region (01 case handled by the Prosecutor's Office at the Yaoundé TPI; and 02 at the TPI of the Administrative Centre) and 2 in the Littoral region (cases handled by the Prosecutor's Office at the Yabassi courts).

Government liaised with its national and international partners to come together to find an appropriate solution to this situation in order to limit the impact of the calamity on the lives of the people in the disaster zones.

As a reminder, the outcome of this disaster can be broken down as follows:

- 16 deaths ;
- Various infrastructural facilities damaged;
- Several houses, plantations and livestock destroyed ;
- An influx of homeless people in tens of thousands;
- More than 200,000 persons affected.
-

I- ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT

623. The authorities and their partners sent about ten missions to the affected locations.

- A technical inter-ministerial mission led by the Director of Civil Protection at the MINATD sent by helicopter ;
- Two ministerial missions led by the Minister of Local Government and Decentralization;
- A logistics mission facilitated by the Field Engineers Regiment;
- A medical mission led by the Ministry of Public Health;
- An exploratory mission led by the MINDCAF;
- A MINEPAT/BIRD audit visit, and
- A working visit led by the MINEPAT.

All these efforts were crowned by the visit of H.E. the President of the Republic.

This deployment not only helped to define the scope of the crisis but also to bring comfort to the people and to provide them with the emergency assistance required by this disaster.

II- INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND APPEALS

624. In all, the following assistance packages were received:

- Provision by Morocco of humanitarian assistance in the form of 2,500 blankets and 200 tents;
- Arrival of a team from the United Nations System (UNS) on the site to make a quick assessment of the situation. The UNS estimated the emergency needs at about three (03) billion CFA Franc;
- Expression of compassion by the United States through its Ambassador to Cameroon who promised to provide substantial assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Humanitarian assistance from Turkey and China;
- Provision of a humanitarian cargo of 200 tonnes of food products by Saudi Arabia;
- Undertaking by Qatar to provide humanitarian assistance of 50,000 dollars ;
- Offer of cooperation by the Switzerland, and
- Promise by Russia to mobilize contribution in kind for the disaster zone.

General Summary

625. To date, 201,931 disaster victims have been taken charge of (including 147,176 in the Upper region and 54,755 in the Northern region). An amount of 2,474,650 billion CFA Francs was spent by the authorities on assistance provided to disaster victims in the Upper region and Northern region (including 800 million by the President of the Republic, 550 million for the Kousseri disaster and 898 million of the package of 1.5 billion allocated by the Government).

- 662 tents were deployed to provide shelter for the people;

- 200 tonnes of foodstuffs have also been provided by Saudi Arabia, and
- 20 tonnes of items made up of 2,500 blankets and 200 tents provided by Morocco.

III- CONTRIBUTION OF OTHER PARTNERS

- 626.** Within the framework of the Committee set up to ensure the monitoring of this crisis, special emphasis is laid on the synergy of activities of the various departments involved.
- ❖ The **MINEDUB** carried out the disinfection of affected schools, distribution of school supplies and the staggering of fees to be paid in order to give parents of pupils in the disaster zones more financial flexibility.
 - ❖ With regard to the **MINCOM**, it is counting on the need to communicate more on the activities of the Committee in particular and the authorities in general as part of the management of this disaster in order to relay official information so as to minimize the negative effects of disinformation. To this end, it is expected that, with respect to civil protection, a slot of airtime every month would be dedicated to the monitoring of the disaster on CRTV.
 - ❖ The **MINDCAF**, for its part, is considering measures aimed at securing land reserves to ensure a better identification of the disaster zones in liaison with the regional governors.
 - ❖ For its part, the **MINADER** is currently carrying out several activities at the economic and structural levels. There is an urgent need to ensure food security through the purchase and distribution of foodstuffs. Where necessary, the MINADER could purchase food items in the south of the country to provide the disaster zones of the Northern and Upper regions with fresh supplies. In the medium term, plans are being made to rebuild the production and productive capital infrastructure of these regions, with particular emphasis on off-season crops. To this effect, the President of the Republic is reported to have shown his tremendous support for the MINADER by providing it with a budget allocation of FCFA 3 billion.
 - ❖ The activities of the **MINEPAT** are basically structural and advocacy in nature to ensure the introduction of an integrated action plan in liaison with all concerned stakeholders. Thus, the European Union and the World Bank were requested to provide technical and financial support for the various envisaged infrastructural projects. The Republic of Italy is also said to be interested in these projects. In the short-term, therefore, the cleaning out of the downstream canal of the Mayo Vrick has been projected. In the medium-term, it is proposed that studies dedicated to the security of the Bénoué basin and the Lake Chad region will be reviewed in order to address the problem of the control over the waters in their entirety.
 - ❖ Concerning the **MINREX**, it is basically tasked with collecting data and putting it at the disposal of its potential partners.
 - ❖ The **MINDEF**, through the Field Engineers Regiment, was asked to conduct studies for the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure.

PART SIX:
DUTIES (Articles 27, 28, 29) OF THE CHARTER

627. In order to ensure the civic education of the people, the Government, per Decree n° 2010/384 of 23 December, 2010, established the National Civic Service Agency for Participation in Development (ASCNPD). It should be recalled that the National Civic Service Agency for Participation in Development is based on Law n°2007/003 of 13 July, 2007 which instituted the Cameroon National Service for Participation in Development.

628. Although they were started decades ago, civic training and citizenship education remain longstanding concerns for the authorities. To this end, the reactivation of civic service materialized through the ASCNPD aims at providing training for the people, particularly the youth, on their duties as citizens and, therefore, their involvement in the consolidation of the Nation.

I- PRESENTATION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASCNPD

629. This Agency has positioned itself as the policy arm of the State for the mobilization of energies towards the economic, social and cultural development of the country and the promotion of the national and patriotic sentiment, sense of discipline, tolerance, public interest, dignity, civic awareness and the culture of peace. These missions contribute to government policy in the area of voluntary work, civic, sporting and cultural training, consolidation of national integrity and consistency with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

II- ACTIVITIES

A) Start-up phase (since 2012)

630. This young institution actually commenced its activities with the training of 6,070 volunteers throughout the country. The training modules focused on the following areas:

1) Values

- Civic and moral education (respect of the laws of Institutions, respect of the State, respect of others, and the rights and obligations of citizens).
- Solidarity, patriotism, citizenship and national integration.

2) Techniques

- Agriculture, stockbreeding and fishing;
- Other forms of training according to the preference of volunteers.

B) Standing activities of the ASCNPD

1) The action plan of the ASCNPD is in two areas of intervention, namely:

- mobilization, guidance and training;
- integration, support and public interest work.

631. In the area of mobilization, the Minister of Youth and Civic Education, who is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the ASCNPD, set up Regional Technical Committees responsible for the monitoring and commencement of the activities of the ASCNPD in the 10 regions of Cameroon. In collaboration with the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Cameroon, these committees facilitated the selection of 6,070 young volunteers throughout the country.

632. These young volunteers were given guidance on their natural dispositions, expectations and abilities with regard to the ten (10) course programmes identified for civic and vocational training (agricultural and agro-pastoral). In this regard, one hundred and five (105) sites intended to receive young volunteers throughout the country have been identified and are operating both as day and boarding facilities.

2) Some outcomes: activities of volunteers

633. With the guidance and assistance of the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education and the ASCNPD, young volunteers were involved in activities linked to the prevention and management of disasters, the execution of public interest projects, activities of peer educators and the exaltation of voluntary work.

- **Risk prevention and management**

634. In the course of 2012, the northern part of Cameroon was hit by floods. In this regard, government officials in charge of the youth and civic education involved the youth in the affected regions in the resolution of this crisis. The ASCNPD mobilized voluntary youth workers to participate both in the rehabilitation of the dykes and care for the disaster victims and even the development of the reception centres set up for the victims.

- **Execution of public interest projects:** in the pioneer cities of Yaoundé and Douala, Fridays and Saturdays were set aside for the improvement of sanitation in public places, human investment and assistance to the needy. The objective is to extend this activity to the entire country as well as all those who have been called up.

- **Activities of peer educators**

At the end of the training of trainers' seminar held from **04 to 08 October, 2012 in the main towns of the 10 regions, the 438 persons** present agreed to provide the volunteers with all the teaching aids intended to help them to become agents of sensitization on societal issues and government projects targeted at the youth.

- **Exaltation of voluntary work: the celebration of the International Volunteer Day on 5 December, 2012** was the opportunity for the pro bono involvement of young volunteers of the city of Yaoundé in public interest activities meant to deepen public-spiritedness.

III- PROSPECTS

635. In addition to its expansion project, in keeping with the National Youth Card, the ASCNPD intends to get into the area of the development of the voluntary spirit among street children and other minorities. Besides, the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development have expressed the desire to sign a partnership agreement with the ASNCPD to ensure the effective supervision of volunteers with regard to their respective skills.

636. In conclusion, civic training and citizenship education are still concerns for the authorities in order to get the youth to carry out public interest tasks, to get to know about the culture of respect for others, to contribute to the defence of the interests of other citizens, to serve their nation by putting their physical and intellectual capacity at its disposal and to preserve and strengthen social and national solidarity when the nation is threatened.

637. In this regard, ASNCPD hopes to intensify its activities aimed at training the people, particularly the youth, on their duties as citizens, contribution to the development of their country and the feeling of patriotism, solidarity and patriotism and the public interest, all of which are necessary for the consolidation of the Nation.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

638. Cameroon is resolutely engaged in the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights in general and is particularly determined to implement the relevant provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

639. Due to its conviction that the promotion and protection of human rights can, among others, materialize through the improvement of the standard of living of its citizens, the Government of Cameroon has undertaken many activities to ensure the deepening of the rule of law, democracy and prosperity.

The following activities testify to the above:

- formulation of the Employment Growth Strategy Paper (DSCE);
- adoption of a National Participatory Development Programme (PNDP), as part of the endeavour to involve everyone in public affairs;
- adoption of a National Governance Programme, a National Anti-Corruption Plan and the related legal and judicial arsenal;
- launch of big structural, integration and employment-generating projects (Memvele'e, Lom Pangar and Mekin dams as well as construction of the Kribi industrial-cum-port complex...) and
- effective establishment of an independent organ responsible for the management of elections, ELECTIONS CAMEROON » (ELECAM), whose organic law has undergone a basic amendment in Article 6 and which has led to an increase of the number of members of the Electoral Council from 12 to 18 to take the socio-political composition of our country into account.

640. This organ organized its first election during the presidential election of 09 October, 2011, which included the votes of Cameroonians in the Diaspora for the first time. In addition, in order to consolidate its democratic process, strengthen peace and social cohesion and in the spirit of transparency of the electoral process, Cameroon adopted a unique electoral code in April, 2012 and decided to adopt the biometric process for the on-going design of the electoral register.

641. On the other hand, the legal landscape was widened with the opening of eight (08) district courts and two (02) high courts per Decree n° 2012/120 of 15 March, 2012. Besides, the Special Court was established per Law n° 2011/028 of 14 December, 2011 for the purpose of imposing more effective sanctions for the misappropriation of public funds. In order to decongest the prisons, four new prisons were built.

642. In the area of economic and social rights, efforts were made to reduce the spending patterns of the State and their harmful consequences for the budget allocated to social services, in spite

of the economic recession and its effects. Measures for supplies in essential commodities were taken to avoid the « hunger strikes of 2008 ».

643. Furthermore, Cameroon, in collaboration with civil society, is striving to strengthen the process initiated in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights and is deepening all the bona fide contributions, particularly the recommendations from organized seminars and conferences as well as reports prepared by experts on the occasion of their field visits. Since 2008, the introduction of human rights education has been going on effectively at all level of the educational ladder (primary, secondary and higher...) in 50 selected pilot primary schools throughout the country. This pilot phase has ended and its extension to all primary schools in the country is imminent.

644. In keeping with this initiative, Cameroon intends to continue its constructive dialogue and cooperation with all the human rights mechanisms in absolute transparency and sincerity. It is aware that a lot has been done, but that a dynamic process is necessary to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights. More than ever before, it hopes to receive assistance from the African Commission on Human and Peoples ' Rights and all international human rights promotion and protection institutions to successfully execute the agenda of the Cameroonian Nation and the deepening of a culture of human rights in Cameroon.