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## Human Rights Council

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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

## **Written statement\* submitted by Modern Advocacy, Humanitarian, Social and Rehabilitation Association, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[5 February 2019]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## Peace Building as an Inclusive Human Rights Responsibility for all Sustainable Development Stakeholders

### Introduction

With reverence to the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) wherein all members of the human family form the foundation of freedom, justice and peace and whereas disregard for human rights have led humanity into barbarism and defiance of the human conscience, in prospective, we realize that global governance principles from highest level dictums to lowest level community dialogue agendas on development, demonstrate the will for multidimensional recourses to address human rights abuses.

Support for societal multi-stakeholder responsibility in defence for human rights as a peace building essentiality is raised within several legal and legitimate records. The UN Charter of 26 June 1945 reaffirmed faith in the fundamental human rights and to which one of the main purposes of the United Nations is enshrined in building international peace and security;<sup>1</sup> the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna on 25 June 1993 considers that human rights education, training and public information, in order to achieve stable and harmonious relations among communities, should include peace, democracy and social justice as enshrined in the UDHR;<sup>2</sup> and the 9 July 2002 African Protocol Relating to the Establishment of Peace and the Security Council of the African Union is concerned that no single internal factor than the scourge conflicts within and between African States, have contributed more to the socioeconomic decline of the Continent, inflicting untold suffering to the civilian populations and have forced millions of people including women and children, into a drifting life as refugees and internally displaced persons, deprived of their livelihood, dignity and hope. This therefore, has elevated the need to promote peace, security and stability in order to guarantee the protection and preservation of life and property for the wellbeing of the African people and their environment, and enabling conducive conditions for sustainable development.<sup>3</sup>

In some African countries such as Rwanda, Ethiopia and South Africa that have deeply rooted historical grievances of conflicts, human rights oriented approaches on the basis of equality, brotherhood<sup>4</sup> respect and community and personal development,<sup>5</sup> have significantly contributed in the speedy country development progress. For example, the post Rwandan genocide era has been enhanced by solid national reconciliation and assiduously enforced social re-engineering pathways;<sup>6</sup> while staying committed to pro-poor policies and strategies and still demonstrating national ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Ethiopian government engages inclusive participation of all actors and stakeholders in the SDG progress achievement process;<sup>7</sup> and from the truth and reconciliatory commissions of the post apartheid era that help revamped peaceful country development processes, the South African Human Rights Commission is working on human rights indicators for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and incorporating the SDGs in its work across various units.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 1 of 1945 UN Charter.

<sup>2</sup> Paragraphs 78 and 80 of the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Program of Action.

<sup>3</sup> Article 3(a) on the objectives of the African Protocol Relating to the Establishment of Peace and the Security Council of the African Union of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2002.

<sup>4</sup> Article 1 of the UDHR emphasizes on the human beings equality, dignity and rights with conscience to act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

<sup>5</sup> Article 27 and 29 of the UDHR reflects community program agendas and priorities that serve to better mutual individual wellbeing development causes.

<sup>6</sup> The "Umuganda" scheme on community compulsory work approach is emblematic of a broader culture of reconciliation, development and social control asserted by the government.

<sup>7</sup> This ascertains individual rights for partaking in development processes that concerns them and promoting the culture of peace through consent.

With knowledge that sustained country development values are attained by the worth of brotherhood sacrifices through reconciliatory measures, what of the Cameroonian Nation case study?

## **Peace building and Human Rights Flaws in Cameroon**

Recurrent autocratic speeches by lead government officials, other belligerent faction leaders and peace activists, instigate hatred, mistrust and impose developmental stalemate. In precision, when government ministers make public statements that are contrary to field occurrence facts, when belligerent factions manipulate information to suite their crusade position, when peace activists take political stands or impose limitations to solution options, and when leadership preaches but makes no attempt for an inclusive dialogue process, the right to the individual's fully informed choice is violated.

In a system where the rule of law means little to law implementers, development channels become weak and unsustainable because injustice will triumph and bitterness increase towards destruction instead of consensual construction. When highly repressive and criticized laws<sup>8</sup> are promulgated against the freedoms of opinions, expressions and unions,<sup>9</sup> it becomes very difficult to find common grounds for peace and development (A/HRC/39/NGO/62). Also, when systemic malice is demonstrated through incomplete separation of powers and control of the executive over the judiciary, corruption infiltrates justice and leaves the victimized citizens frustrated and vicious (A/HRC/37/NGO/52).

## **Readjusting the Cameroon's Growth Focus by Effectively Addressing the Anglophone Problem and Conflict**

The 2035 agenda for sustainable development is categorical on the fact that inclusiveness in development practices not only is an end in itself but also happens to be the best defence against the risk of violent conflicts. Facing the Anglophone conflict in Cameroon has proven beyond reasonable doubts that government cosmetic solutions to the crises lack the value of inclusiveness and as a result, the entire development process of the country is in regression.<sup>10</sup>

While calls by national and international leaders and organizations<sup>11</sup> for an inclusive dialogue process seem inadequate for the government's reaction, reflections on the Anglophone identity and marginalization issues that date from 1961 – 1972 till today stay preponderant on the public human rights debate for solving the Anglophone crisis.

The exemplary measure of the Anglophone General Conference (AGC) initiative led by a college of conveners of religious leaders is seemingly an initial step towards an inclusive dialogue process that needs the government's support. However, the scale and nature of the challenge of sustaining peace needs strategic and operational partnerships including both government and civil society organizations with specific considerations on women and youth groups. In the complex world of today, such partnerships are needed to harness the energies of all sectors of society with an accentuation on the youths who represent the future of society. Conflict can disrupt educational and employment opportunities, leading to trauma and mistrust towards the State and other governance norms due young people's varied experience in peace and conflict. Thus, since young people resist violence, and some actively engage in human rights and peace building and sustaining activities despite the risks they face, they

<sup>8</sup> Law No. 2014/0282 of 23 December 2014 on terrorism contains provisions that are incompatible with basic human rights.

<sup>9</sup> The term "public order" has been used to enact very repressive laws and granting abusive powers to administrative authorities in matters freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and public manifestation.

<sup>10</sup> The Commission of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, and that of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration are top-bottom approaches which are intensifying the conflict instead of appeasing it.

<sup>11</sup> This Includes the UN, European Union, African Union, US Congress, Diplomatic missions, the Cameroonian people and more calls for an inclusive dialogue in Cameroon.

should be adequately represented in decision-making at all levels (A/72/707–S/2018/43).<sup>12</sup> The UN Security Council in its resolution 2250 (2015), is very categorical on the involvement of youths in peace and security under five key pillars for action: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement and reintegration.

Building and sustaining peace as a human rights tool for sustainable development also requires consensual support and resources at all levels including: voluntary resources, assessed contributions from diverse sources and a peace building fund.<sup>13</sup> As a measure to sustain peace and development over the Anglophone crises, the North West regional coordination unit for AGC mobilization, with diverse cross sectional youth leadership participation, has introduced an All Anglophone Union for Peace and Development (AAUPD) with a proposed Anglophone Hope Fund (AHF) to serve for revitalizing the Anglophone identity towards resilience, rehabilitation, reintegration and reconstruction of the war torn Anglophone communities.

## **Conclusion**

Since the ethical mission of human rights and the UDHR is in bringing the human conscience to terms and reasons for mutually respectful human coexistence, therefore, the value of sustainable development which is construed in the best interest of the human being's survival cannot be disconnected from the course of sustainable peace that endorses such human co-existential values.

– Stand-up for Human Rights in Cameroon and Realize Peace and Security –

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<sup>12</sup> Paragraphs 6 and 28 of the Report of the Secretary General link with the UN Security Council's seventy-third year.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid paragraph 49.