

Draft of voices of Cameroon civil society according to the guidelines set out by C-CFA

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A – Required changes as regards governance for African development

I. Recommendations

Enumerate approximately 3 points requiring to be changed as regards governance for African development

(Including the governance of donors, NGOs and African governments)

1 Values and importance of open, transparent and people-owned

Democratic processes should be acknowledged,

2 The participation of civil society and protection of human rights as key and prerequisite for sustained progress in the achievement of the MDGs

3 The overarching theme of global governance has to be address under three thematic lenses:

- A) Peace and Security;
- B) Governance and Human Rights;
- C) Development, Trade and Finance issues.



II. (1st point): VALUES AND IMPORTANCE OF OPEN, TRANSPARENT AND PEOPLE-OWNED DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED

Taking for instance the just ended legislative and municipal election in our country; what is the total population of Cameroon? how many inhabitants registered?... how many actually express their civic rights by voting...? How many abstained from the election..? Does this portray a good image of a country where the values of the citizens are important, open, transparent and people-owned democratic process?

We need to organize our own affairs in relation to legitimacy, accountability and transparency, both at the collective as well as the individual level, in order to fully realize the role of the civil society through their organisations, associations...etc in critical and constructive engagement in processes furthering peace, development and human rights issues.

III. (2nd point) THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS KEY AND PREREQUISITE FOR SUSTAINED PROGRESS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGS

The insertion of the Civil Society Organisations to participate in the national policy only emerged in Cameroon in the 90s with the laws on associations (law N° 90/053 of 19 December 1990). Until date, how many Non Governmental Organisations with full characteristics exist in Cameroon? Less than 15= and this has retarded the progress in sustainable development of the country and the achievement of the MDGs. Because Development partners are ready to work only with organisations with full characteristics.

This situation can be improved by making it possible for associations and groupings to attend the status of an NGO thereby eligible in one way or the other to get access to the funds provided by development partners for sustainable development purposes.

The civil society has to be fully implicated in decision-making process at the national and local levels on issues of sustainable development and the protection of human rights.

IV. (3rd point) THE OVERARCHING THEME OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE HAS TO BE ADDRESS UNDER THREE THEMATIC LENSES:

- A) Peace and Security;
- B) Governance and Human Rights;
- C) Development, Trade and Finance issues.

i. Recalling Article 20 of the Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU):“*The Peace and Security Council shall encourage Non Governmental Organizations, community-based and civil society organizations, Particularly women’s organizations, to actively participate in the efforts aimed at Promoting peace, security and stability in Africa. When necessary, such organisations may be invited to address the Peace and Security Council*”

Cameroon is member country of the AU and has ratified this protocol, why not implement it?

ii. Why not fully integrate MDGs into the national policies and programs, including the PRSPs as in the consensus?

iii. Why not strengthen and prioritize economic growth aimed at increasing well being and reduce inequality

iv. Why not link economic issues to the political debate; for example “measuring longevity in power to the economic growth of the nation”

v. why not democratise governance in order for civil society to access decision-making processes; and

vi. Why not provide fair trade agreements for our country to export her products.



B – International engagements for African development

I. Recommendations

3 POINTS REQUIRING TO BE CHANGED AS REGARDS INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

I- International partners should not only deal with governments, but they should also take into account the role of the CSOs and fully realize in a transparent way their participation in all efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability in Africa.

II- The programs put up by International partners to help African countries should not be surrounded by some conditions that make it impossible to the CSOs to benefit from the project. They should better put in place rigorous organs in charge of monitoring them and evaluate their work.

III- All the missions set on to evaluate programmes do not do their job very well; once on the field in Africa, they make up plan with the government and do bad reports concerning the effectiveness of the programme. They should join the CSOs among the members of such mission to assure good work.

II. Present situation

1. Perceptibility of effects

International partners have set up many programs to promote good governance, education and development in Cameroon, but the present situation is still characterised by bribery and corruption, tribalism, non-respect of the human rights, frauds in the electoral process, inequality in the distribution of social facilities...etc

All these have made Cameroonians to be defeated by these mal practices and most youths have lost confidence in their motherland and prefer to seek refuge in foreign countries. Life is characterised by burglary, drinking, alcoholism, etc...

In short, to many Cameroonians the attainment of the achievement point is still to come. The adage "life of the jungle and survival of the fittest" still hold. Only a few Cameroonians are comfortable to be what they are.

This can be noted as the failure by partners to follow up their initiatives, and make up their evaluation to make sure they have change something in the citizen's conditions. This non-evaluation of the objectives by the international partners makes the Cameroonian government to remain sleepy in his engagement.

2. Recommendations to be drawn

01) The Government should;

i. Assume full responsibility for the protection of human rights and for the

Protection of its own people, rather than only its government, according to the

"Responsibility to protect", adopted by all heads of State at the 2005 Summit;

ii. Introduce human rights education into all schools curricula at earliest age;

iii. Articulate national policies within an appropriate framework to address "internally Displaced persons" which has become a major issue on human rights and good Governance;

iv. Adopt a rights based approach to MDGs in integrating human rights into all Actions for development and into all enterprise development set up for the



Realization of the MDGs;

v. Create multidisciplinary research teams to articulate and understand MDG

Concepts in national languages so that they can become efficient vectors because

Originally, from our traditional rites and cultural heritage, we are able to promote good governance and transparency;

viii. Encourage and improve public-private partnerships (between state and non-state actors) to promote a democratic culture and bring it deep into the awareness and understanding of African people.

02) The international community and financial institutions should;

i. Revise and adjust foreign investment to better meet the continent's needs;

ii. Alleviate development aid methods with smoother conditions and more focused on development; and

iii. Create direct credit lines for African women's development.

iv. Join the CSOs in the process of making-up projects, their realisation, and give them the means to follow the effectiveness of the those projects realised by the governments, so as to assure the realization of the MDGs;

III. (Specific Question)

(Suggestion: Question concerning Japanese engagement or TICAD??)

The Japanese Embassy in Cameroon finance groups, GCIs, Associations, development committees. Exclusively, they give subsidies and gifts in the form of equipment and or materials. The amount financed is generally lower than 10 million FCFA. The priority sectors financed are agriculture, vocational training and incomes generating initiatives carried out by the women, education, and health. Personal contribution is obligatory.

The TICAD project in Cameroon is out to assist the government politically in her process of E-governance, capacity building and assistance in the private sector. All these are to reduce poverty in line with the MDGs.

Questions

1. Why is the material assistance offered by the TICAD IT/ PNUD project to some institutions and organisations are usually used and outdated goods? For example most of their computers are Pentium 2 (second handed) that does not last long
2. Why is it that the project did not set aside a rigorous organ in charge of monitoring and evaluation of their activities?
3. What criteria are put in place to identify meritorious organisations to accede assistance in the project?
4. Why the project is not well publicised especially in the semi urban and rural area, where it remains unknown by many associations and organisations that could have benefited from it to reduce poverty in those areas?
5. The Japanese government is presently fortifying "education for all" by the construction of classrooms in some towns in Cameroon. Since this project has been up to now concentrated in urban towns, What can the rural population dream to ripe from this project and when? Why not insist so that this project should be realised in priority in the rural areas?