

**COMMISSION DES DROITS
DE L'HOMME DU CAMEROUN**

**Sous-Commission chargée
de la promotion des droits de l'homme**

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**CAMEROON HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SUB-COMMISSION IN CHARGE
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**STATEMENT BY THE CAMEROON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO
MARK THE AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

21 October 2024

Theme. – *Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa*

The Cameroon Human Rights Commission (hereinafter: “the Commission” or “the CHRC”, established by Law No. 2019/014 of 19 July 2019 and rendered operational on 29 April 2021, following the swearing-in of its members before the Supreme Court, sitting in Joint Benches,

Bearing in mind that at the 16th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Monrovia (Liberia) from 17 to 20 July 1979, the African Member States of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) decided by Decision No. 115 (XVI) to draw up a “preliminary draft African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights [a document] providing, *inter alia*, for the establishment of organs for the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights”,

Bearing in mind also that the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (hereinafter: “the Charter”, or the “ACHPR”) was adopted on 27 June 1981, two years after the start of the preparation of the said preliminary draft at the 18th Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU in Nairobi (Kenya), that it entered into force on 21 October 1986 and that it was ratified by Cameroon on 20 June 1989,

Emphasising that the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACnHPR), at its 5th Ordinary Session, held in Benghazi, Libya, from 3 to 14 April 1989, adopted resolution ACHPR/Res.1(V) 89 of 14 April 1989, designating **21 October** the

anniversary of the entry into force of the AChHPR¹, as *African Human Rights Day (AHDR)* each year,

Having regard to the preamble of the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights, which states that "*freedom, equality, justice and dignity are essential objectives for the realisation of the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of Africa*", and by which these peoples:

[r]eaffirm the pledge they solemnly made in Article 2 of the said Charter to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa, to coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life for the people of Africa and to promote international cooperation having due regard to the charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [while t]aking into consideration the virtues of their historical tradition and the value of African civilisation which should inspire and characterise their reflection on the concept of human and peoples' rights,

Recalling that for the AU, formerly the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was established in Durban, South Africa, on 9 July 2002, in application of the Sirte Declaration of 9 September 1999² - this celebration is an ideal opportunity for the peoples of the world in general, and Africans in particular, not only "*to widely disseminate the instruments of human [and peoples'] rights which they proclaim, and to revive interest in these [rights ...], but also promote a better awareness thereof [everywhere and for everyone]*"³, but also to "*intensify their efforts to enable Africa to achieve new progress in that field*"⁴,

Convinced that the celebration of this anniversary:

would involve the peoples of the world in general and the African peoples in particular in the activities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in the field of human [...] rights and promote, as well, at the level of the African community in particular, the actual exercise and enjoyment of human [...] rights and of the basic freedoms⁵,

Welcoming the African Union's (AU) annual theme for this year, "*Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Quality, Inclusive and Relevant Lifelong Learning in Africa*"⁶,

¹ See the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (AChHPR), adopted by the 18th Assembly of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Nairobi (Kenya) on 27 June 1981, ratified to date by fifty-four (54) States and entered into force on 21 October 1986.

² See African Union (AU), "About the African Union", [https://au.int/fr/appercu#:~:text=LUnion%20africaine%20\(UA\)%20est%20une%20organisation](https://au.int/fr/appercu#:~:text=LUnion%20africaine%20(UA)%20est%20une%20organisation), accessed on 17 October 2024.

³ See AU, "Resolution on the Celebration of an African Day for Human and Peoples' Rights - ACHPR/Res.1(V)89, 14 April 1989", <https://achpr.au.int/index.php/fr/adopted-resolutions/1-resolution-sur-la-celebration-dune-journee-africaine-des-droits-de-lhomme-et>, accessed on 7 October 2024.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ See AU, Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI), Concept note on Education as the theme for the AU Year 2024, 16 pp, spec. p. 1.

Emphasising that this theme of the AHRD requires better structuring of “*the entire education and skills development spectrum, from early childhood education and development to tertiary and vocational education and life-long learning*”⁷,

Noting that through this theme, the AU calls upon all Member States to develop and implement *effective, sustainable and system-wide transformational strategies for education in Africa* and for the resolution of the constrained education financing landscape, while strengthening the role of teachers as key agents of transformation, as they must be adequately supported and empowered to play their part in this process⁸,

Noting that this theme has been identified by African countries, through Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AUC), as a priority area for action. This is due to the urgent need to address the global education crisis and the delay experienced by Africans in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which is to ensure equal access to quality education for all and promote opportunities for lifelong learning⁹,

Recalling that there are significant hurdles facing Africa in attaining the aforementioned MDG 4, the AU, through its Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI), joined forces with United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Fund (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), to host a High-Level Side Event on Transforming Education in Africa. This event was scheduled to take place at the AU Mission to the United Nations in New York, United States of America, on 20 September 2022. The event was chaired by H. E. Macky SALL, then Chairperson of the AU, and Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, resulting in the drafting of a statement that was subsequently considered and adopted by the Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology¹⁰,

Recalling also that the above-mentioned AU theme for the year in question was adopted at the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 18 and 19 February 2023¹¹,

Emphasising that the AU's decision to focus on education follows the evaluation of the implementation of the above-mentioned SDG4 as well as the AU Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), in particular Strategic Objective 2 - *Build, rehabilitate, preserve education infrastructure and develop policies that ensure a permanent, healthy and conducive learning environment in all sub-sectors and for all, so as to expand access to quality education*¹²- which recommends that AU Member States:

⁷ Ibid., p. 8.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ See African Union, "Theme of the Year 2024: Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century", <https://au.int/en/theme/2024/educate-african-fit-21st-century>, accessed on 3 September 2024.

¹⁰ See AU, Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI), Concept note on Education as the theme for the AU Year 2024, 16 pp, spec. p. 2.

¹¹ See AU, "Avis aux médias / 36^e sommet de l'UA", https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/mediaadvisories/42589-MA-AVIS_AUX_MEDIA_OUVERTURE_DE_LA_36emme_SESSION_ORDINAIRE_DE_LA_CONFERENCE_DES_CHEFS_DETAT_ET_DE_GOUVERNEMENT_DE_LUNION_AFRICAINE.pdf, accessed on 10 October 2024.

¹² See AU, Continental Education Strategy 2016-2025, 44 pp. spec. p. 12.

- a) [e]xpand and consolidate infrastructure and learning and training facilities especially in rural and other underserved areas
- b) [d]evelop administrative and legislative mechanisms to ensure the preservation and the protection of school infrastructure;
- c) [e]nsure harmonious development of the body, taking into account a voluntary feeding and school health policy;
- d) [e]nsure free access to textbooks and teaching tools
- e) [f]ormulate appropriate policies conducive to expansion of education with special focus on early childhood care and education, TVET and general secondary education, as well as tertiary education
- f) [a]ddress access constraints imposed by poverty, lifestyle, culture, location among others.
- g) [i]ntegrate mapping of education facilities and infrastructure into urban and rural planning¹³,

Noting that the assessment of Aspiration 6 of Africa's Agenda for Children 2040, according to which "*every child [should] benefit fully of quality education*", shows that coverage of early childhood education remains very low. Furthermore, the provision of free and compulsory education is facing challenges in terms of the direct and indirect costs associated with it. In addition, girls are disproportionately affected in terms of access to and completion of education¹⁴,

Noting also that, according to the *Legal Vocabulary*, "*lifelong learning*" refers to "*the range of training activities designed to allow beneficiaries to refresh, update, supplement, or broaden their theoretical or practical knowledge*"¹⁵,

Emphasising that education - described by the World Bank Group as the most important factor for equity and social inclusion - *is a fundamental right, a powerful driver of development and, moreover, one of the strongest instruments for reducing poverty and improving health, gender equality, stability in Africa, while generating consistent returns in terms of improved household incomes*¹⁶

Considering the Preamble of the Constitution of Cameroon dated 18 January 1996, which states in its 18th indent that '*the State shall guarantee the child's right to education. Primary education shall be compulsory. The organization and supervision of education at all levels shall be the bounded duty of the State*' and that the people of Cameroon affirm '*their attachment to the fundamental freedoms enshrined in [...] the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and all duly ratified [International Conventions relating thereto]*',

Acknowledging that the AChHPR also asserts the significance of education for all in Articles 17 and 25, that:

"*[e]very individual shall have the right to education, [consequently] every individual may freely, take part in the cultural life of his community. [In addition*

¹³ See AU, Continental Education Strategy 2016-2025, op. cit, spec. pp. 26-27.

¹⁴ See AU / African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), Concept note for the Day of the African Child 2024 entitled Education for all children in Africa: the time ps now, 21 pp. spec. p. 3, http://www.acerwc.africa/sites/default/files/2024-03/Concept-Note_Day-of-the-African-Child_2024_EN.pdf, accessed on 10 June 2024.

¹⁵ See Gérard CORNU, Association Henri Capitant (dir.), *Vocabulaire juridique*, Quadrige, 2016, 1 101 pp., p. 388.

¹⁶ See World Bank, "Education: an overview", <https://www.banquemondiale.org/fr/topic/education/overview>, , accessed 11 October 2024.

t] *he promotion and protection of morals and traditional values recognized by the community shall be the duty of the State. [Consequently] States parties to the present Charter shall have the duty to promote and ensure through teaching, education and publication, the respect of the rights and freedoms contained in the present Charter and to see to it that these freedoms and rights as well as corresponding obligations and duties are understood”.*

Considering that the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) states in Article 11 (1 and 2) that:

[e]very child shall have the right to education. The education of the child shall be directed to: the promotion and development of the child’s personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential; the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, tolerance, dialogue, mutual respect and friendship among all peoples ethnic, tribal and religious groups; [for] the preservation of national independence and territorial integrity; [and also] the promotion and achievements of African Unity and Solidarity,

Considering also that the universal human rights instruments binding Cameroon also recognise the right to education, including:

- the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Article 28 (1) and
- the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Article 13

Considering that article 26 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrines the right to education for all, stating that:

Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace,

Noting that to enhance the protection of the rights of some so-called vulnerable groups – specifically children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities – the African Union (AU) has adopted three protocols to complement the Charter, including:

- the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Older Persons adopted on 31 January 2016 by the 26th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, ratified by Cameroon on 8 September 2023, t which, in its preamble, states that “[t]he virtues [of older members of society in safeguarding] the African [ancestral] traditions, values and practices which should inspire [...] the passing of knowledge [through informal education] to younger population groups”
- the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Persons with disabilities adopted on 29 January 2018, which came into force on 17 June 2020 and was ratified by Cameroon on 8 September 2023. This Protocol states in article 16 (3) that “States shall take all reasonable, appropriate and effective measures to ensure inclusive, comprehensive and quality education for persons with disabilities”
- the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa adopted on 11 July 2003 at the 2nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference in Maputo, Mozambique (also known as *the Maputo*

Protocol), which entered into force on 25 November 2005 and was ratified by Cameroon on 28 December 2012. This Protocol states in :

- Article 10 (a) that “*States parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the increased participation of women in programmes of education for peace and a culture of peace*”
- Article 12 (a) that “[s]tates parties shall take all appropriate measures to Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and guarantee equal opportunity and access in the sphere of education and training
- Article 12 (e) that “[s]tates parties shall take all appropriate measures to Integrate gender sensitisation and human rights education at all levels of education curricula including teacher training”

With reference to Law No. 2023/009 of 25 July 2023 to institute the charter on child online protection in Cameroon, which aims to provide a framework for the promotion and protection of children in cyberspace, with a particular focus on the suppression of criminal activity,

Further referring to Section 4 of Law No. 98/004 of 14 April 1998 to lay down guidelines for education in Cameroon, which states that:

the general mission of education is to train the child for his intellectual, physical, civic and moral development and harmonious integration into society, taking into account economic, socio-cultural, political and moral factors,

Noting that Section 7 of the same law enshrines the principle of equal access to education, stating that [the] *State shall guarantee equal opportunities of access to education for all without discrimination on grounds of political, philosophical and religious opinions, social, cultural, linguistic or geographical origin,*

Noting further that Section 7(3), 9th indent of Law No. 2023/007 of 25 July 2023 on Higher Education Policy in Cameroon provides that: “*higher education shall [...] participate in eradicating all forms of discrimination and encourage the promotion of peace and dialogue [which are values very dear to Africa, in particular Cameroon]”, and in Section 37 (1) on the quality of teaching that” [t]he teacher is the principal guarantor of the quality of education and shall be entitled, within the limits of available means, to suitable living conditions and to appropriate initial and in-service training*”

Noting that target 4.7 of Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims not only to ensure “*inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*”, particularly by ensuring that by 2030, *all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for development*¹⁷,

Emphasising that the normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa has changed little since the 2023 Statement commemorating the Day, which highlighted relevant provisions¹⁸,

¹⁷ See UNESCO Institute for statistics, *SDG 4 Cameroon. Country profiles*, 106 pp, spec. p. 37.

¹⁸ See Statement by CHRC to mark the African Day of Human and People's Rights, on 21 October 2023, 9 pp., spec. pp. 3-4, <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2023-10-2101-47-55.pdf>, Accessed on 16 October 2024

The Commission welcomes the efforts made by public authorities and some of their partners to promote and protect children's right to education, through:

- the audience granted on 10 May 2024 by the Minister of Basic Education (MINEDUB) to a UNICEF team led by its representative in Cameroon, Ms. Nadine Perrault, during which UNICEF reaffirmed its interest to accompanying Cameroon in the implementation of the Education Sector Plan and its wish to remain the coordinating agency in the implementation of the priority reform of basic education
- the inauguration, on 4 January 2024 by MINEDUB, of the *private Catholic bilingual complex Notre dame de Fatima* de Nko'ovos in Ébolowa, South Region, with the aim of encouraging the Catholic Church and its partners to contribute to the improvement of the educational system in Cameroon and especially in this locality,

The Commission extends its appreciation to the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL) for its endeavours in Yaoundé from 26 to 27 April 2024, which were undertaken with the assistance of the National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC) and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). These activities formed part of the organisation of the *First National Forum of Mayors on Universal Birth Registration*. The objective of the forum was to increase awareness among relevant stakeholders of the necessity to significantly reduce the number of individuals lacking birth certificates in Cameroon. This figure stands at 7,000,000 with 1,500,000 of these being children enrolled in primary and nursery schools,

Furthermore, the Commission is gratified that on 7 February 2024, its Chairperson participated in the ceremony to present the *Project for Strengthening the State of Human Rights in Cameroon*, at the invitation of HE Filippo Scamazza Del Murgio, the Italian Ambassador to Cameroon. This project was met with considerable enthusiasm by the Chairperson of the CHRC, who expressed hope that particular emphasis would be placed on the right to education of detainees, among other things,

The Commission is also gratified by the celebration, of Commemorative Human Rights Days from 22 October 2023 to 21 October 2024, which pertain to the right to education. These celebrations will result in the publication of 13 Statements by the CHRC, in particular:

- International Day of Non-Violence, 2 October 2024¹⁹
- International Day for Universal Access to Information, 28 September 2024²⁰
- International Sign Language Day, 23 September 2024²¹
- International Day of Peace, 21 September 2024²²

¹⁹ See Statement by the CHRC to mark the International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October 2024, 9 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-10-0210-24-54.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

²⁰ See Statement by the CHRC to mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information on 28 September 2024, 8 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-10-0210-24-54.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

²¹ See Statement by the CHRC to mark the International Day of Sign Languages on 23 September 2024, 9 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-09-2209-43-11.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

²² See CHRC Statement to mark the International Day of Peace, on 21 September 2024, 9 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-09-2114-06-07.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

- International Day to Protect Education from Attack, 9 September 2024²³
- African Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Day, 10 August 2024²⁴
- International Day of the World's Indigenous People, 9 August 2024²⁵
- Africa's Women's Day, 31 July 2024²⁶
- Day of the African Child, 16 June 2024²⁷
- International Day of Reflection on the 1994 *Tutsi* Genocide in Rwanda, 7 April 2024²⁸
- International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January 2024²⁹
- International Day of Education, 24 January 2024³⁰
- International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2023³¹

The Commission is concerned by the statistics published on 9 August 2024 by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), according to which a total of 30.1 per cent of children in primary education do not have a birth certificate out of Cameroon's population of approximately 29,460,672, and 1,500,000 pupils in school - for the 2023-2024 school year - do not have a birth certificate, including 59,163 pupils in examination classes, in particular in the second year of the Cours Moyen (CM2) or in class 6,

The Commission is still concerned about the high number of attacks on education, with devastating short-, medium- and long-term effects on access to education and education systems, with a profound impact on the development of society in general. These attacks were perpetrated in particular by Boko Haram terrorists in the Far North Region and by secessionist terrorists in the North West and South West Regions,

The Commission deeply deplores and strongly condemns cases of serious violations of the right to education, in particular cases of abductions - sometimes resulting in murder

²³ See Statement by the CHRC to mark the 5th International Day of the Protection of Education from Attacks, on 9 September 2024, 10 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-09-0811-53-07.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

²⁴ See Statement by the CHRC to mark the 7th African Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Day on 10 August 2024, 10 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-08-1607-38-09.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

²⁵ See Statement by the CHRC to mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 9 August 2024, 11 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-08-0810-05-59.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

²⁶ See Statement by the CHRC to mark the 62th Africa's Women's Day on 31 July 2024, 11 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-07-3115-51-32.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

²⁷ See Statement by the CHRC to mark the 34th Day of the African Child on 16 June 2024, 8 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-06-1619-19-15.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

²⁸ See Statement by the CHRC to mark the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Tutsi Genocide in Rwanda on 7 April 2024, 10 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-04-0710-31-53.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

²⁹ See Statement by the CHRC to mark the International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January 2024, 7 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-01-2519-56-09.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

³⁰ See Statement by the CHRC to mark the 6th International Day of Education on 24 January 2024, 15 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-01-2206-44-41.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

³¹ See Statement the CHRC to mark the International Human Rights Day, and of the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 2023, 12 pp., <https://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2023-12-1006-56-43.pdf>, accessed on 16 October 2024.

- of educational staff, pupils, students and/or learners for ransom by Boko Haram terrorists (in the Far North and North regions) and by secessionist terrorists (in the North-West and South-West regions).

The Commission welcomes the implementation by the public authorities of the recommendations set out in its previous statement to mark the African Day of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, as part of the implementation of the right to education, and in particular the launch in Yaoundé on 22 March 2024 of *a special operation to produce and issue birth certificates to pupils in level 3, i.e. Cours moyen première et deuxième années (CM1-CM2) for the French-speaking sub-system and Class 5 and Class 6 for the English-speaking sub-system, by the Minister of Basic Education. The ultimate objective of this operation was to issue, within two months, 80,000 birth certificates to needy pupils in Cameroon's public primary schools to enable them to sit the official examinations in May and June 2024*³²,

The Commission recalls that out of the 220 recommendations accepted by the State during the adoption of the Report of Cameroon on 24 March 2024 after undergoing the *fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)*, six are in favour of the protection of education against attacks and four are related to the right to identity– a prerequisite for access to education – which the CHRC has distributed to the relevant players, each as far as it is concerned, as follows:

- the recommendation to *"intensify efforts to ensure access to education for all children, including those facing insecurity as a result of terrorist activities"* was addressed to MINDEF, the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT), to MINEDUB, MINESEC and the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL)
- the recommendation to *"take immediate measures to protect schools and other educational institutions in accordance with the Declaration on Safe Schools"* was addressed to MINEDUB, MINESEC, MINESUP, MINJEC, MINDEF and the General Delegation for National Security (DGSN)
- the recommendation to *"remedy the negative effects of the crisis on the right to education"* was addressed to MINAT, MINEDUB, MINESEC, MINJEC, and the Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE)
- the recommendation to *"guarantee access to education for all children, particularly in the North-West and South-West Regions"* was addressed to MINDEF, MINEDUB, MINESEC, MINESUP and MINJEC
- the recommendation to *"take effective measures to guarantee the safety of pupils and educational staff throughout the country"* was addressed to MINDEF, the Secretary of State for Defence in charge of the National Gendarmerie (SED), GDNS, MINAT, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS), MINEDUB, MINESEC, MINESUP, MINDDEVEL, and
- the recommendation to *"further strengthen the protection of children affected by conflict and ensure that all schools used for non-educational purposes are*

³² See. CERSP-Cameroon, "official launch of the operation for the establishment and issuance of birth certificates" on 22 March 2024, <https://www.parec-cameroun.net/lancement-officiel-de-loperation-detablissement-et-de-delivrance-des-actes-de-naissance-le-22-mars-2024/>, accessed on 2 August 2024.

rapidly evacuated and that schools are no longer used for military purposes” was addressed to MINDEF, GDNS, MINEDUB, MINESEC, MINESUP and MINJEC

- *the recommendation to “improve access to birth registration, including measures to facilitate the organisation of mobile court hearings to obtain declaratory judgments to establish birth certificates, particularly for people living in inaccessible rural areas” was addressed to the Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE), MINDDEVEL and the National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC)*
- *the recommendation to “guarantee the right to citizenship to all those who are legally entitled to it and who fulfil the necessary formalities” was addressed to the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT), MINJUSTICE, the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) and MINDDEVEL*
- *the recommendations to “examine the possibilities of incorporating into national law the provisions of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons” and “those relating to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness” were addressed to the Senate, the National Assembly, MINAT, MINREX, MINJUSTICE and BUNEC,*

The Commission reiterates the recommendations made in its previous statements, in particular those addressed to:

- *the Ministry of Justice to step up the fight against violations of children's rights, particularly early and forced marriages, which hinder the education of the girl child and exacerbate educational inequalities, jeopardising their chances of autonomy in the future*
- *regional and local authorities, primary and secondary schools, the media, civil society players and parents, each as far as they are concerned:*
 - *increase capacity building for women in general, and girls in particular, on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as a palliative solution for self-education and empowerment, on the range of services offered by ICTs, and on the methods available to them to ensure their safety online*
 - *using education to change harmful customary practices that support and condone violence against women and girls, such as widowhood abuse and female genital mutilation (FGM), and to eliminate stereotypes that legitimise any form of violence against women,*

The Commission recommends that the Government, in particular MINEDUB, MINESEC and MINESUP, should:

- *improve significantly the quality and facilities of educational infrastructure to bring them in line with international educational standards*
- *promote new technologies and innovations in the domain of education for the effective emergence of Cameroon by 2035*
- *create and provide education/training platforms for all social strata, taking into account the specific needs of women and girls,*

Finally, the Commission recommends that the government and its development partners enhance collaborative efforts to ensure that the right to education (both in terms of

quality and inclusiveness) is upheld and respected. The right to education is frequently undermined by the average quality of infrastructure, the absence of, or inadequacy of libraries and laboratories, and the substandard quality of teaching and assessment.

For its part, the Commission reaffirms its commitment to spare no effort in the promotion of human rights and the rights of African people, with a particular focus on the rights to education of Cameroonians. This will be achieved through training workshops, awareness raising campaigns, advocacy, fact-finding missions and through the handling of complaints and self-initiated investigations.

The Commission therefore calls upon any person who is a victim or witness of Human rights violation to denounce or report by contacting the CHRC at its Head office or in its Regional and Divisional Branches, including via its **toll-free number 1523** (free call).

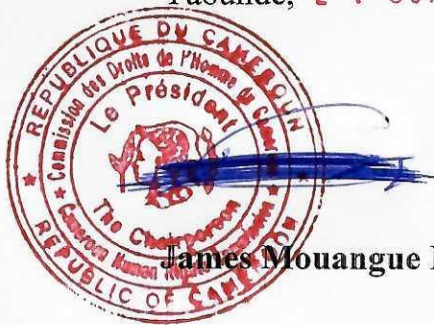
Useful addresses of the CHRC. -

Web site: www.cdhc.cm

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Yaoundé, **21 OCT 2024**



James Mouangue Kobila