

Delegation from The Republic of Cameroon
Position Paper for Economic and Social Council

The issues before the Economic and Social Council are: Education in Post-Conflict Situations, Implementing SDG 7, and Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic and Cultural Rights of Indigenous People. As Cameroon has the long-term vision to be an emerging country by 2035 it is of extreme importance for us to fulfil the development goals. With the words of our president Biya: “Let us mobilize the international community in a powerful search of solidarity to strength the worlds development.”

I. Education in Post-Conflict Situations

The Republic of Cameroon is deeply concerned about the high number of children who have no access to education in post-conflict situations due to a lack of financial aid for existing domestic school projects. According to the Agenda of Education for All, in conflict-ridden countries around the world, 18 million children are estimated to not attend school. Currently, there are existing many projects which try to help domestic school systems in Africa but most of them lack in financial aid. For instance, the project 'Schools for Africa' organized by UNICEF, which delivers teaching materials and builds schools, is mostly financed by donations. But this amount of monetary help is not high enough to deliver constant help for every nation in Africa. To overcome this issue, monetary help needs to be offered also by domestic institutions and programs. As Cameroon was not part of the UNICEF project, it knows how difficult the installation of a functional school system without the help of foreign aid can be. However, Cameroon sees its duty in being a role model and great help in fulfilling international community's development goals, to find sustainable ways to finance conflict-ridden African states with the help of the UN but in cooperation with their own education projects.

Cameroon sees the establishing of education as a human right, passed within the UN-Charta, Article 26, in 1945 as a major step towards equality in world. The Agenda of 'Education for All' has made to their goal to establish education all over the world and is therefore the greatest project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Within this program, 164 countries from all over the world have signed the six main goals which include the establishment of free and high-quality primary schools for every child in the world. Additionally, the goal of establishing quality education is also SDG4 of the Agenda 2030. SDG4 makes clear, that education is the key in preventing war and achieving sustainable peace. Moreover, the Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/3 includes the invitation for non-governmental organizations to participate. In addition, funds like the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) tries to overcome financial problems in projects which develop education and tries to inspire political institutions to see education as a priority even in crisis. Although the ECW is well organized and structured it has yet failed to cooperate with domestic political institutions in an efficient way.

Cameroon suggests implementing a program closely tied to the existing fund ECW, trying to inspire governments to make greater financial efforts for education in cooperation with existing UNICEF projects in order to push them to find national solutions without the dependency on foreign aid. Therefore, cooperation between ECOSOC, local communities and private credit firms is necessary. Credit institutions need to decide whether an institution nominated by local government should reach a credit. A working group of ECOSOC should organize emergency groups, which are able to give advice to the institutions. It is of necessity, that the accountability lies within the institution in order to hinder corruption. This program should start in August 2019 and should first last until July 2022. Experts from private credit firms, nominated by representatives of the ECOSOC, should supervise the project. It should depend on the ECOSOC committee to decide whether the measures are efficient and should last longer.

II. Implementing SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All

The Republic of Cameroon is disturbed about the slowly progress on guaranteeing access to electricity in rural areas as agreed in the Agenda 2030. Mostly African states struggle from a lack of electricity and currently over 600 million African people do not have access to electricity and therefore fall back to common but harmful methods for i.e. cooking. Solar energy is the only efficient and green solution for getting electricity on the long run in countries which profit from the ongoing sun power. With the use of

solar energy, while being complicated to install, Cameroon was able to efficiently equip even parts of rural areas with clean energy. With strong solidarity of international supports from different organizations like the Canadian 'Wireless Light & Powers' this goal was reached in part. Cameroon is convinced that installed solar energy can be the key for reaching SDG 7 and moreover, be the impulse for reaching the Agenda 2030 as a whole.

Recalling the resolution of the General Assembly 70/1 (2015), which established the Agenda 2030 to transform Earth in order to reach sustainable development. In 2015, 17 ambitious goals were announced, concerning people all over the world. Target 7.2, which aims at increasing substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030, is for Cameroon the key to reach long-term success. To reach first the most affected states, the 2020 targets of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) has been established. In addition, a First-High-Level conference was organized in Vienna, launching the Africa-EU Energy Cooperation Program (RECP). The overall aim of the program is to contribute to the objectives of the AEEP to improve energy security by accelerating the use of renewable energy in Africa. Such agreements are of incredible importance, but have, however, yet failed to reach long-term success.

Cameroon suggests establishing a private-public-partnership (PPP) cooperation between the UN and energy firms of the AEEP in order to implement solar energy in form of photovoltaic system in rural areas of Africa. This cooperation together with the expertise of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should first create an African-wide index of existing or outdated solar energy systems. Second, the cooperation with the private firms from AEEP and the UNDP need to decide where and how photovoltaic systems can be installed in order to give even rural area access to electricity. Only marginal benefits, pursued by the PPP, can accelerate the process of reaching SDG 7 and until 2030, two-third of the most rural areas in Africa should have access to solar energy. The secretary of the UNDP is also requested to name a responsible working group called United Group for Solar Energy (UGSE), who should inform the ECOSOC on its annual meeting about the progress.

III. Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Republic of Cameroon is deeply worried about the predominant conditions for indigenous peoples all over the world and the neglect of their rich cultural characteristics and religious needs. There are currently 350 million indigenous peoples living in about 90 countries. With this number in mind, it is obvious that they are not reaching the awareness in world they have deserved and so it was even necessary to found the International year of the World's Indigenous People in 1993, aiming to strength the worldwide awareness for them. As 250 different indigenous tribes, e.g. the Fulanis, call Cameroon their home, Cameroon has high respect for their traditions and way of life. Cameroon is part of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). We believe that awareness and protection for the various cultural traditions of indigenous peoples is indispensable for the preservation of international community to understand its member states' different cultural backgrounds.

Cameroon recognizes the work of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP) which was established in 1982 and started to draw the international community's attention to the topic of the rights of indigenous minorities. As part of the ECOSOC, the working group implemented the 'International Day of the world's Indigenous Peoples'. Representing its Convention C169, the International Labor Organization started to bring awareness in the international community for indigenous cultural diversity. Additionally, in the year 2014 the first World Conference on Indigenous People was held. Although the meeting was able to establish an outcome document due to the resolution of the General Assembly 69/2 (2014), with the one objective to recognize the importance of indigenous peoples' cultural sites, this is not completely established in current sense for cultural protection and there is no equality for indigenous peoples.

Cameroon is convinced that organizing a cultural event helps to promote the cultural traditions of indigenous people and raise awareness to their needs all over the world. This cultural event is to be held on the International Day of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples on 9th of August in every member state who wishes to participate. A working group of the WGIP and the UNPFII in close cooperation with inter alia already active NGOs and cultural clubs within each member state to establish a program for these events. The main group to be reached by this event should be children as sharpening their sense for diversity in their home country is of utter importance.