

**DECLARATION DU CAMEROUN DANS LE CADRE DU DIALOGUE GROUPE
AVEC LE RAPPORTEUR SPECIAL SUR LES PEUPLES AUTOCHTONES, 42^{ème}
CONSEIL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME, GENEVE, le 18 SEPTEMBRE 2019**

The Delegation of Cameroon thanks the President for giving them the floor.

The Delegation of Cameroon wishes to congratulate the Special Rapporteur for his Report and endorses the conclusion reached thereto.

The legal and policy framework as well as programmes and projects initiated are favourable to the guarantee of the rights of indigenous people. In the preamble of the Constitution, it is stated “*the State shall ensure the protection of minorities and shall preserve the rights of indigenous populations in accordance with the law*”. These measures are aimed at facilitating indigenous people’s access to education, citizenship, management of public affairs, justice, land, natural resources as well as at the development of the socio economic empowerment of this vulnerable group as a whole. For the time being, those considered indigenous forest people in Cameroon are the Bakas, Bakolas, Bagyelis, Bedzangs and the Mbororos who are traditionally nomadic cattle herders.

In 2017 Government set up a Three Year Action Plan (2017-2019) for the Protection and Promotion of the Human Rights of indigenous people in all spheres. Furthermore, Cameroon has adopted a Plan for the Development of the Pygmies which is included in the National Community Driven Programme (PNDP). The PNDP takes into consideration their specificities in certain spheres like the right to education, citizenship and culture of as well as issues related to agriculture.

An Intersector Committee for Programmes and Projects involving Indigenous People (CISPAV) was also set up in 2013. The Committee is a coordination, monitoring and evaluation platform on the implementation of programmes and projects on the promotion and protection of the Human Rights of indigenous people.

Consultations are always carried out with indigenous people before the implementation of any projects in areas they inhabit. Hence, with a view to addressing the environmental and social effects of major

hydroelectric projects and to better protect the rights of indigenous peoples against the exploitation of their natural wealth and resources, a guide on how to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) was drafted and validated in 2014.

The interest of indigenous people is taking into account in the conservation of biodiversity. An example of this is Partnership Agreement signed on 10 April 2019 between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous people in the conservation of biodiversity in Cameroon.

With regard to education, The Education and Training Sector Strategy Paper (2013-2020) lays down the main guidelines for the access of indigenous people to the education. Government has continued to guarantee free access to primary education without discrimination to indigenous children, and to ensure that every child has a birth certificate, a prerequisite to enrol in school. The extension to 3 months since 2011 of the deadline for the declaration of births and the issuance by courts of declaratory judgments of birth has enabled the establishment of birth certificates for several children from indigenous communities.

The Government of Cameroon would like to reassure the Special Rapporteur of its full support in fulfilling his mandate.