

# **NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY**

**MINJEC CAB 2015**

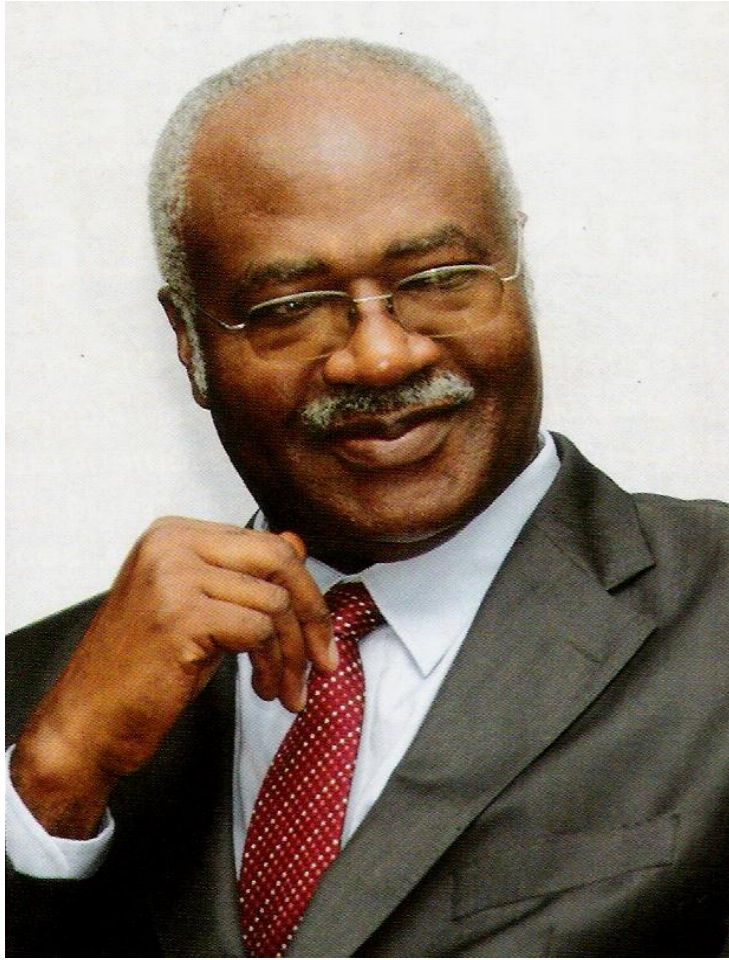




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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CENAME	National Centre for the Supply of Drugs and Essential Consumables
GCW	General Confederation of Workers / Freedom
IAC	Inter-African Committee for Women
CIEE	Center for Information, Education and Listening
NACC	National AIDS Control Committee
CONFEJES	French speaking Conference of Ministers on Youth and Sports French
CSAC	Cameroon Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions
CSIC	Confederation of Trade Unions for Cameroon Industries
CSTC	Confederation of Trade Unions for Cameroon Workers'
DNSA	Department of National Statistics and Accounts
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
ECAM	Cameroon Household Survey
EESI	Employment and Informal Sector Survey
DCAT	Cameroon Demographic and Health Survey
EIF	International Wildlife School of Garoua
ENAAS	National School of Social Welfare
ENEF	National School of Forestry
FAO	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization
FESADE	Women, Health and Development
FIMAC	Investment Fund for Micro-Agricultural Community
FOGAPE	Guarantee Fund for assistance to Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises
FONIJ	National Youth Employment Fund
FORCARFE	Cameroon Foundation for Women Streamlined Environmental Action
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation Agency
MDRI	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
IEC	Information / Education / Communication
BMI	Body Mass Index
INJS	National Institute of Youth and Sports
INS	National Institute of Statistics
IRESKO	Institute of Research and behavioral studies
STD	Sexually Transmissible Diseases
JEVAIS	Youth and Associative Life for Social Integration
LANACOME	National Laboratory for Drug Quality Control and Expertise
LEWCE	League of Women and Child Education
MIDEPECAM	Cameroon Fisheries Development Authority
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAS	Ministry of Social Affairs
MINCULT	Ministry of Culture

MINEDUB	Ministry of Basic Education
MINEFOP	Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
MINEPIA	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINEP	Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection
MINESEC	Ministry of Secondary Education
MINESUP	Ministry of Higher Education
MINFOF	Ministry of Forests and Wildlife
MINJEUN	Ministry of Youth Affairs
MINJUSTICE	Ministry of Justice
MINPLAPDAT	Ministry of Planning, Programming and Regional Development
MINPROFF	Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family
MINSANTE	Ministry of Public Health
MINSEP	Ministry of Sports and Physical Education
MINTOUR	Ministry of Tourism
MINTSS	Ministry of Labor and Social Security
PNVRA	National Program for Agricultural Extension and Research
ILO	International Labor Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
WHO	World Health Organization
ONEFOP	National Observatory of Employment and Vocational Training
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
ONPD	National Civic Service for Participation in Development
UNAIDS	United Nations Program on AIDS
PAJER	Rural Youth Support Program
PAJU	Urban Youth Support Program
WFP	World Food Program
PARFAM	Rural household income improvement Program in the northern Provinces
PDA	Adolescent Participation and Development
FP	Family Planning
PNA	National Literacy Program
NPPD	National Program for Participation in Development
NMCP	National Malaria Control Program
NACP	National AIDS Control Program
NTCP	National Tuberculosis Control Program
PNRVA	National Agricultural Research and Extension Program
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative
PREPAFEN	Integrated Project for the Fight against Poverty and feminine inequality in the Far North province
PRODEC	Community Development Program
PSA	Food Security Program
RADEF	Women's Projects Support Network

SAILD	Support services to local Initiatives in Development
SCNPD	National Civic Service for Participation in Development
RSDS	Rural Sector Development Strategy
SDF	Social Democratic Front
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
SIL	Summer Institute of Linguistics
RH	Reproductive Health
SSDS	Social Sector Development Strategy
HSS	Health Sector Strategy
PHC	Primary Health Care
CPDM	Cameroon People's Democratic Movement
RC	Republic of Cameroon
SDB	Social Dashboard
CDU	Cameroon Democratic Union
EU	European Union
UGTC	General Workers Trade Union of Cameroon
NUDP	National Union for Democracy and Progress
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UPC	Union of the Populations of Cameroon
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
USLC	Cameroon Free Trade Unions' Association
HIV	Human Immune deficiency Virus

## **PREFACE**

Since independence, youth affairs have always been at the centre of our preoccupations. Nonetheless, the state has continually invested in this domain in a bid to meet the ever growing needs of our youths despite the negative effects of economic recession on our Nation.

In taking office at the helm of the state, conscious of the evolution of the population, as well as their dynamism, generosity and courageous creativity, I firmly engaged myself in making the latter the centre and priority of my vision and actions. It is in this perspective that the state has always apportioned an important part of its budget to cater for the education, health, training and the socio economic insertion of youths.

Notwithstanding these non negligible efforts, the democratic growth and accelerated urbanisation of our nation with its huge effects on the available state resources have a tendency of overshadowing our efforts regarding youth affairs. The weight of the youth population, over 60 percent of the entire population, demonstrates on the one hand, the huge task staring us to the face, and on the other, the paramount role that the latter could play towards nation building.

More than ever before, youths have to be considered as a major asset for the success of governmental action which includes among others, the fostering of economic growth and the strive for good governance. These objectives can better be attained if youths get to grasp the important role they ought to play towards achieving these ends as well as in the strive to preserve peace, to foster national integration and democracy, by the promotion of values such as integrity, the general interest and the love of work.

For an optimal follow up of youths in a bid to enhance their active participation in nation building, I created a ministry in charge of youth affairs as well as prescribed the elaboration of both the National Youth Policy and the Youth Plan.

The National Youth Policy should be considered both as the global orientation guide and equally a coherent sphere which harmonises diverse interventions for the benefit of youths, who are plagued by several ills such as delinquency, unemployment, HIV/AIDS and the consumption of drugs.

While extending my profound gratitude to all who have contributed towards its elaboration, I call on all parties involved in its implementation (ministerial departments, decentralised territorial collectivises, the private sector, the civil society, development partners) to give in their all for the attainment of an accomplished, responsible, creative and resolutely engaged youth population, in the realisation of the major development objectives of the nation.

**The President of national comity of  
civic education and national integration**

## INTRODUCTION

The President of the Republic, on December 8 2004, took an important decision in favour of the Cameroonian Youth. In effect, he created a ministry specifically in charge of the management and empowerment of the youth. This was a very significant gesture, a vision shared by an immense majority of Cameroonians, making youths a potential drive force towards Cameroon's development.

It is in order to undertake and implement coherent actions regarding the youth that the Head of State prescribed the formulation of a National Youth Policy. Today, the youths are confronted with a variety of difficulties that are getting more and more complex by the day. In this perspective, it is of great interest to build the capacities of the youth by considering them from the standpoint of human capital so as to enable them better invest in future development projects.

The National Youth Policy, thus, appears as an efficient instrument in the global dynamics of the fight against poverty to which Cameroon is resolutely committed. It takes into account, such key concerns as the fight against STDs/AIDS; gender mainstreaming, environmental protection, greater involvement of youths in the management of public affairs.

In fact, the Government of Cameroon, through the National Youth Policy will be endowed with a reference framework for action so as to:

- take greater account of the specific concerns of the youth;
- ensure a greater synergy of skills of all players and stakeholders in the youth management sector;
- More efficiently mobilize the necessary resources and projects for the benefit of the Youths.

The process of developing this strategic framework was initiated in a counseling workshop that federated representatives of youth associations and movements as well as officials from the Ministry of Youth Affairs. This process was based on a methodological approach consisting of consultation and participation

The consultative approach involved a literature review of various government departments and the UN agencies and civil societies organizations, consultation of officials from various public institutions, private organizations, civil society organizations youth associations and movements, youth supervisors and parents. This consultation was conducted through individual and group interviews.

The philosophy of participation was applied in order to validate the situational analysis of the youth as well as the strategic guidelines of the policy. For each of these activities, a national workshop was organized bringing together officials of institutions, representatives of development partners and the civil society as well as representatives of youth associations and movements. During these meetings, participants pinpointed the problems of the youth and on

this basis, the fields of action were defined and the objectives and strategies formulated on a consensual basis.

This National Youth Policy document successively reviews the general context (chapter 1), gives a critical review of the youth situation (chapter 2), analyses the conceptual framework and elements of the National Youth Policy (chapter 3) and finally analyses the implementation measures (chapter 4).

## **CHAPTER I: BACKGROUND**

### **1.1: Geophysical presentation of Cameroon**

Cameroon is located in the Gulf of Guinea and covers a surface area of about 475,650 km<sup>2</sup>. The country is triangular in shape and shares borders with Chad and the Central African Republic to the east, Nigeria to the West, Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea to the South, the Atlantic Ocean to the South West and Lake Chad to the North.

Its relief is constitutive of plains, basins, high plateaux and mountain ranges dominated by Mount Cameroon (4100 m). With regard to its climate, two distinct kinds exist: The tropical Sudanese climate and the equatorial climate with nuances. These two variables combined with a varying rainfall gives the country a vegetation structure ranging from the dense forest to the steppes. The savannah stunted or with shrub is located in between the luxuriant forest of the south and the steppes in the north.

### **1.2: Population data and the importance of the youth population in Cameroon**

As of July 2011, Cameroon's population is estimated at 20.138.637 inhabitants representing an increase of 2.674.801 persons, six years after 2005. The youth population, constitutive of persons as from 15 – 35 years, embodies 7.098.633, which is 35.2 percent of the entire population. Following these projections, the number of youths will attain 9 million come 2020. The structure of persons according to age groups has remained almost unchanged since the last national census conducted in the year 2005.

The age pyramid is characteristic of developing countries with a very high proportion of youths. This pyramidal representation is the effect of a high birth and fertility rate and a falling death rate. As a result, more than half of the population (63.8%) are under 25 years. Children and youths under 35 years represent 79.28% of the entire population. With regard to the aged as from 65 and above, they represent just 3.32% of the entire population. In 2011, the urbanisation rate is estimated at 53.9%, which signifies that over half of the entire population lives in the towns. Gender statistics for the year 2011 based on the revelations of the precedent census gives 97.7 men as against 100 women throughout the national territory.

Population density remains weak. It moved from 35.7 inhabitants in 2005 to 42.3 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> in 2011. The population is equally unevenly distributed throughout the country. We therefore observe strong variations throughout the national territory. In the East region, we denote 8.1 inhabitants/ km<sup>2</sup>; while in the West region of country; it stands at 141.3 inhabitants/ km<sup>2</sup>.

Life expectancy at birth has considerably ameliorated. It moved from 37years in 1963 to 63 years in 2011, in other words, of 58.9 years for men and 63.6 years for women. This reflects an overall improvement in living standards of the population.

### **1.3: Ethnic groups, Culture and Languages**

At the linguistic level, Cameroon has about 200 ethnic groups and close to 250 national languages. Considering this great number, the introduction of national languages in school curricula still raises many problems.

Each ethnic group has its own beliefs and practices regarding the status of children and women and a mode of social organization. However, this cultural substratum tends to be supplanted by the values conveyed by education and modern means of communication. At the religious level, many communities Christians, Muslims, animists etc peacefully cohabit.

### **1.4: Communication and means of communication**

Concerning communication and means of communication, a specific ministry was created to develop and ensure the implementation of government policy in this area. Law No. 90/052 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of social communication and Law No. 96/04 of 4 January 1996 on administrative censorship enshrined the freedom of expression in the country. The media landscape is rich and diverse. It includes modern communication channels, including newspapers and private (radio, television and written press) media and traditional channels of communication such as association and community liaison. Information covers all types of subjects. It is broadcast in the official languages and some national languages.

With d to the road network, which is the most used means of communication across the country, it stretches over about 53960 km long distributed as follows:

- 11480km in the Grand North (North, Far North, Adamawa) with 1005km tarred;
- 20000km in the Southern plateau of Cameroon (Centre, South and East) with less than 5000km tarred
- And finally 10000km in the coastal plain including 3000km of tarred road.

Cameroon has an average railway network (transcameroon) of about 1245km long. This is the major transport medium linking the south to the north section of the country since 1974.

As concerns waterways, it is quite under developed because of the limited number of navigable rivers. Herein, we have the Benue, the unique water port of Cameroon, the Logone, the Nyong, the Wouri, the Ndian and the Manyu.

Transport by sea and road are the oldest means of communication in Cameroon. It is characterised mainly by the Douala Ports Authority, the Kribi and the Limbe ports

Air transport is characterized by four major airports namely:

- 1) The Yaounde-Nsimalen international airport
- 2) The Douala International air port
- 3) The Garoua International air port
- 4) The Maroua-Salak international air port



Apart from these major airports, there are other secondary airports in other regional headquarters and secondary towns such as Ngaoundere and Bamenda.

## **1.5: Political and Administrative setup**

The Independence of the French trusteeship territory was proclaimed on 1st January 1960. In 1961, British and French mandated Cameroonian territories reunified. Thus composed of French- and English-speaking regions, Cameroon, a Federal Republic as from 1961, became the United Republic of Cameroon following a referendum on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1972. In 1984, it became the Republic of Cameroon.

At the administrative level, Cameroon is divided into ten (10) regions, 58 divisions and 361 sub divisions. The region, division and subdivision are the operational units of both developmental planning as well as the political and administrative management of the country. There are great differences between these units as concerns the economy, the population and the socio-cultural aspects and these differences greatly influence the life of the youths.

Pursuant to the provisions of the January 18 1996 Constitutional revision, the decentralization of Cameroon was prescribed. Cameroon therefore comprises of 389 urban and rural councils with some (Yaounde, Douala, Limbe, Nkongsamba, Bafousam, Edea, Garoua, Bamenda, Maroua and Ebolowa) having a special status in their respective regions. These are administered by Government Delegates appointed by Presidential decrees.

With respect to the new found political pluralism following Law N° 90/53 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of association, political life is animated by several political parties, the most prominent of them being the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM), the Social Democratic Front (SDF), The National Union for Democracy and Progress (NUDP), the Cameroon People's Union (UPC) and the Cameroon Democratic Union (CDU) among others. Each of these political parties has created a specialized organ for youths training and expression.

Trade unionism is today animated by six major movements: the Cameroon Confederation of trade union Workers (CSTC), and the Cameroon Association of Free Trade Unions (USLC), the General Confederation of free workers (CGT), the Cameroon Workers' General Union (UGTC), Cameroon Confederation of Industrial Trade Unions (CSIC), and the Cameroon Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions (CSAC).

The reorganization of Government on December 8 2004 boosted the important place hitherto accorded the youths by the creation of a ministry specifically in charge of youth affairs. This said boost was further accentuated by the government reorganisation of December 09 2011 with the attribution of Civic Education to the said ministry. It goes without saying that these issues are also handled by other ministries in charge of: basic education, secondary education, higher education, social affairs, agriculture and rural development, women's empowerment and the family, public health, employment and vocational training, sports and physical education, culture, labour and social security. In the same line of thought, several national and international NGOs and associations support the actions of the State.

At the legal and regulatory level, several instruments govern youth affairs:

- Decree N° 63/DF/227 of 16 July 1963 setting up a Cameroonian Pioneer National Youth Movement;

- Decree N° 67/DF/503 of 21 November 1967 reorganize the Youth and Popular Education Movement;
- Law N°73/4 of 9 July 1973 instituting the national civic service for participation in development;
- Law N° 74/22 of 5 December 1974 on sports and socio-educational infrastructure;
- Law N° 90/53 of 19 December 1990 on the freedom of association, the charter of physical and sporting activities of 1996;
- Law N°98/004 of 14 April 1998 on the orientation of education in Cameroon ;
- Law n° 99 of 22 December 1999 on NGOs;
- Law 005 of 16 April 2001 on the orientation of higher education;
- Decree n° 2004/320 of December 08 2004 reorganising the government
- Decree n° 2005/151 of May 04 2005 organising the ministry of youth affairs
- Law n° 2007/003 of July 2007 instituting the National Civic Service for Participation in Development
- Decree n° 2010/384 of December 2010 creating and organising the National Civic Service Agency for Participation in Development

## 1.6: Socio-economic situation of Cameroon

### **1.6.1 Evolution of the economic situation**

At the economic level, Cameroon has a number of riches which include agricultural (banana, cocoa, coffee, cotton), forestry, mining and petroleum resources. These resources have a great bearing on the Nation's GDP estimated in 2008 at an overall 10.979.3 thousand million CFA francs. Concretely, this represents half of the GDP of the Central African Economic and Monetary Union (CEMAC).

From 1965 to 1985, Cameroon witnessed a sustained economic. But the said economy experienced serious recession to the point of devaluating its currency in January 1994 that led to a sharp drop in the GDP (-30% between 1985 and 1993) and a 40% drop in the consumption per inhabitant. In fact, since 1996, Cameroon's economy has been back on the rails with an average growth rate of 4.5% per annum. Household consumption has equally increased to about 2.9% in 2011, a tendency that has been falling since 2008. In fact, the observed rate stood at 5.3% in 2008, 3.0% in 2009 and 1.3% in 2010. This return on inflation is principally owing to the 4.8% rise in nutritive product prices. In particular, the price of agricultural products has risen by 6.0%.

Public finance also improved thanks to a number of factors: increase in oil revenues, improvement in the prices of raw materials; rationalization of public expenditure and a rigorous tax policy. However, this recovery remains fragile, for it strongly depends on global economic growth estimated at 4.5% in 2000 (4.2 for African countries) and on the fluctuation in the value of major currencies.

The progress observed in the economy has positively influenced social sectors in particular as well as the reduction of the incidence of poverty on the population. This incidence dropped from 53.3% in 1996 to 40.2% in 2001. In spite of these laudable results, a significant proportion of the population still remains in abject poverty. The Government, conscious of the new challenges brought about by this situation, has designed a specific programme to combat poverty.

The implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the application of the National Programme on Governance are the two major policy components aimed at consolidating the achievements and improving the welfare of the youths with regard to employment, education, training, health civic participation and agriculture.

To this end, the complete PRSP developed on the basis of a participatory approach was adopted by the Cameroon Government in April 2003 and approved by the international community in August of the same year. As a result, it permitted the country to maintain its macroeconomic stability as well as maintain its growth rate up till 2008.

That notwithstanding, the loopholes observed during the successive evaluation of the PRSP have showed that the general growth profile has been on a low towards remedying poverty. This process of revising the strategy resulted to a Growth and Employment Strategy paper (DSCE). During the elaboration of this program through a participative approach, the population have specifically opined that these strategies result to long term development. This recommendation was met with through the conception of a vision of emergence come 2035 and the adoption of a new finance regime in 2007. It must however be noted that the conception of the DSCE was done in a context marked by the international financial crises, the food crises as well as the energy crises. This is the empirical expression of a short term sustainable human development plan for Cameroon as well as a progressive march of the country towards the World Development Program. As a consequence, it is represented as;

- An integral development framework
- A framework for the coordination of both government action and external support
- A framework for financial coherence
- A framework for reflection and coordination with the civil society, the private sector and development partners
- An orientation framework for analytical works to foster developmental management

The coming into play of the Growth and Employment Strategy Document and the implementation of the National Program on Good Governance constitute major political tools for the consolidation of the Nation's achievements on the one hand, as well as for the amelioration of the current youth situation in the domains of employment, education, training, health, and their active participation in both agriculture and nation building on the other.

### **1.6.2: The Poverty Situation**

One of the main problems that Cameroon must confront is poverty. Despite the progress achieved in the field of the economy over the last 15 years, poverty has not

significantly reduced. This situation has strongly impacted the social sectors especially education, health, water, and sanitation.

The Human Poverty Index (HPI) highlights the situation related to four major aspects of human life, namely, longevity and health, knowledge, economic means and social participation. This index rose from 31% in 1995 to 39.9% from 2001-2007, showing that the situation worsened during the said 12 year period. It can be deduced that Cameroon has within the past 15 years experienced degradation in the health situation and social services in general.

Poverty affects the population at varying degrees and is more acute in rural areas. This poverty is manifested most often in the difficulties involved in gaining access to social amenities and land resources as well as insufficient socio-economic infrastructure.

The Survey on Household Consumption in Cameroon (ECAM II and ECAM III) shows that the level of education is discriminatory between poor and the well-to-do households. Furthermore, despite the difficulties that young graduates have in getting into the job market, school education is still one of the channels to be prioritized if the State desires to alleviate poverty among young Cameroonians.

The Cameroon government, conscious of the magnitude of poverty, had set as objective to reduce by half the number of persons living below the national poverty line with the view to attaining the millennium development goals, by reducing poverty from 40.2% to 25.25% come 2015.

In this perspective, Cameroon has adhered to the resolutions of the March 1995 Copenhagen summit on social development and the 20/20 initiative (i.e. 20% of the national budget and 20% of public aid allocated to the funding of essential social services). This declaration of intention was accompanied by economic and financial measures which helped in restoring the confidence of international partners.

In May 2000, Cameroon became eligible for the HIPC initiative. In October of the same year, it was admitted to the decision point. In April 2006, it reached the completion point. At this level the country was able to benefit from external debt relief from international creditors and devoted the additional resources resulting thereof to the financing of priority sectors, particularly, health, education, basic infrastructure and the putting in place of quality social policy. The package of measures for economic recovery and the adoption of the good governance and equity principles complete the mechanism for the fight against poverty enshrined in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) recently approved by the Bretton Woods institutions and the community of development partners.

In spite of the efforts made by the Government to sanitize and revamp the economy, the national environment is still characterized by persistent negative effects of the crisis which affect children and women most especially.

## 1.7: International environment

Cameroon is a member of several organizations: the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), The African Union, International Organization of Francophonie, Commonwealth, the United Nations Organization, and a number of other organizations whose purpose is to guarantee the free movement of persons, goods and services as well as promote the people's welfare, peace and integration.

The international community adopted an assembly of legal dispositions to permit all states seriously take into consideration the pertinent preoccupations of kids and youths in the world. The country has as a result welcomed the recommendations, resolutions and international conventions adopted during the major conferences on the defence of the child, the woman and the family, the youth and the sustainable improvement of the living conditions of the population. Over 24 treaties have been ratified by member states of the United Nations to facilitate their access to policies as well as appropriate resources in order to ameliorate the condition of youths and kids in the world. These include

- the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and poverty held in Ouagadougou in 2004,
- the Rio Summit on the Environment, June 1992
- the Cairo International Conference of September 1994, on Population and Development,
- the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development, March 1995,
- the Beijing Conference on Women December 1995,
- the Rome Summit on Food, November 1996,
- the World Conference for the Ministers of Youth Affairs in Braga, Portugal in 1998,
- the Libreville Summit on poverty, December 1999,
- The New York Summit of September 2000 that set the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Development Commission February 2006,
- The extraordinary summit of the African Union which fixed the objectives of the Millennium Development goals,
- The 2004 extraordinary African Union Summit on poverty and employment, Ouagadougou
- The February 2006 46<sup>th</sup> edition of the United Nation's Commission on Social Development,
- The Yaoundé Africa International conference of May 2010
- The African Youth charter ratified by Cameroon on January 2011

Concerning children in particular, Cameroon has adhered to the action plan of the World Summit for children in 1990. It also ratified the convention relative to children's rights in 1993. Among others, the convention for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDEF) was ratified by Cameroon in 1994. In 2002, the latter participated in the 57<sup>th</sup> extraordinary session of the United Nation National Assembly on children in New York.

Concerning youths, the Millennium development goals fixed during the 2000 millennium summit as well as the World Action Plan for youths come 2000 and above, resumes in 10 point the priority areas for governments regarding development. These include education, employment, hunger and poverty, the environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, recreational activities, young girls and women, the total and effective participation of youths in the day to day running of the society as well as in decision making process.

With the support and assistance of the international community, the country is resolutely committed to the sustainable reduction of poverty as well as the significant improvement of the living standards of the population in general and that of the vulnerable groups in particular based on specific and pertinent commitments and objectives, in line with the aspirations of the United Nations to build a better and more secure world.

In this respect, the government has just issued a policy statement on the conditions of implementing the recommendations of the Summits regarding poverty, health education, employment, governance, women; social integration of vulnerable groups, progress in the domain of the environment, housing, water and energy.

## **CHAPTER II: DIAGNOSIS OF THE SITUATION OF YOUTHS**

Analyzing the situation of the youth calls for a review of the state of affairs of this target group based on qualitative and quantitative indicators. Thus, ten areas have been identified:

1. Education and training,
2. Employment and socio-economic integration
3. Health
4. Food and Nutrition
5. Poverty,
6. Civic participation
7. Human rights,
8. Leisure, sports, culture and tourism,
9. Communication and ICTs
10. Globalization and partnership for youth empowerment

### **2.1: Youth, Education and Training**

As concerns education, the achievements are remarkable. They are attained by various actions. At the institutional level, they include:

- The creation of a ministry responsible for each level of education;
- The creation of eight (08) national State universities in different regions of the country.

At the operational level we notice:

- Free public primary education,
- Mobilization of the educational community,
- Gradual professionalization of education,
- The introduction of the LMD system
- The attribution of research benefits to teachers as well as excellence scholarships to meritorious students
- The allotment of about 15% of the state budget to the education sector.

On the structural and infrastructural plain, there is:

- The densification of the public primary and secondary school infrastructure network

- The recruitment of teaching staff.

Furthermore, the educational system in Cameroon is governed by two laws of orientation: Law No. 98/004 of 14 April 1998 on the orientation of education in Cameroon and Law No. 005 of 16 April 2001 on the orientation of higher education. Both educational levels and orders are organized by separate instruments that lay down the conditions for managing education. It further comprises of two sub systems; the Francophone and Anglophone systems respectively, with some variables regarding their operationalization. We further observe public and private institutions in both education systems.

Despite this progress, problems still persist. In concrete terms, at the social level, social education for young people remains of low quality. This is due to illiteracy and the unavailability of parents, gender discriminatory, educational practices, inadequate resources and ignorance of the rights of the child.

As concerns the educational system, the main problems include: limited access, the low internal and external output and governance. This situation results from factors such as; the poor pedagogic management, inadequate consideration of educational needs, insufficient teaching materials, varying statutes of teaching staff and training/employment discrepancies. We can also add inadequate infrastructure and equipment, low income of teachers, insufficient teaching staff, poor enforcement of existing legal provisions and inadequate financial resources.

Following the statistics of the 3<sup>rd</sup> RGPH (2005) published in 2010; the average primary school attendance rate is 75.5%: 76.6% for boys and 73.5% for girls. With regard to secondary education, the rate is at 30.8%, with 26.6% attributed to the first cycle and 11.3% to the second cycle. In the Higher Education domain, the average rate of schooling is estimated at 10.7%.

In 2011, the national rate of repeating classes at the primary level stood at 7.4%. This represents a net amelioration of the education system with regard to that of 2004 (28% in the primary level, 15.3 in the secondary level and 70% in the higher education level). The pass rate at the primary level moved from 56% in 2004 to 21.5% in 2011 while the that of the secondary level remains weak (about 65%), as well as the success rate in public examinations.

At all levels of the educational ladder, disparities are observed in gender as well as regarding the different regions. The parity index between boys/girls in 2003 stood at 91.9 %, 69.6% and 63.4% respectively, at the technical and general secondary education level as well as in the higher education level. This can be explained by diverse socio cultural practices, insufficient infrastructure, the imbalance in the teacher-student ratio and extreme poverty.

These disparities create some degree of marginalization. In a bid to make free education accessible and profitable to all, the existing vacuum between the urban and rural



area is a worry. The marginalized kids in the rural areas run a greater risk of never schooling than those of the urban area. In a more general context, gender discrimination is also observed with the girl child more of a victim than boys both in the rural and urban milieu.

The pass rate in public exams makes some interesting reading. For example, in 2012, in the secondary general education domain, the national success rate at the probatoire and BAC level respectively stood at 37.93% as against 39.87% in 2011, and at 53.30% as against 39.40% in 2011, a net increase of 13.90%. With regard to the GCE O' level, a pass rate of 40.29% was attained in 2008 and a 57.79% at the A' level for the same year.

In terms of infrastructure, the deficit is estimated at about 16,000 classes for the entire country. There are significant disparities between regions in terms of the location of building infrastructure, equipment and distribution of teaching staff.

### **2.1.1: Vocational training**

It is worth noting that the Cameroonian educative system also has a vocational training dimension which is not as organized as the other six (06) levels of education. It consists of a number of professional schools into which admission is acquired through a public exam. Upon graduation from some of these schools, entry into the public service is automatic.

Vocational training in its current state at the higher education level in Cameroon is characterized by a multiplicity of stakeholders in the public and private sectors. The country has about 25 institutions of higher learning that offer skill training for executive and medium level staff. Strategies are put in place to combat the imbalance between training and job acquisition through the professionalization of teaching techniques/methods in the face of a very demanding and evolving job market.

However, the offer and demand of professional education remains weak and dominated by inadequate training with regard to their integration into the job market. Unemployment remains a phenomenon in the urban area, dominant in Douala and Yaoundé wherein we both register 2-digit unemployment rates. This principally affects youths aged as from 15-34, with an unemployment rate herein estimated at 15.5%. Disparities also exist concerning the area of residence, the region and sex.

In the urban area, 42.2% of people have already undertaken professional education as against 18.4% in the rural area. This is explained by the greater offer of this form of education in the urban milieu. In addition, employment opportunities in the rural area are inexistent as against what pertains in the urban area. Men (34.1%) are generally more oriented towards professional education unlike women (27.7%) regardless of the area of residence.

### **2.1.2: Illiteracy**

Following the last RGPH of 2005, the national illiteracy rate stands at 71.2%, with 76.9% attributed to boys as from 12 years and above and 65.8% attributed to girls in that same category. As such, more than a quarter of Cameroonians can neither read nor write.

The state authorities and their partners are implementing since 2005, the National Illiteracy Program (PNA) as a consequence. Despite their efforts aimed at curbing this illiteracy rate, the following problems persist:

- Insufficiency of human resource specialists in the literacy centers;
- Marginalization of girls and young women in literacy programs;
- Lack of appropriate teaching aids.

### **2.1.3: Training of the rural youth**

In 2010, youths in the rural zones represented about 43.41 of the youth population aged as from 15 to 34, representing about 2.631.199 youths, with 54.34% composed of boys as against 46.66% for girls. Ministries in charge of the rural milieu manage the various training institutions for this caliber of youths. The state authorities have elaborated a development strategy for the rural sector and envisage the reinforcement of the professional training of rural workers. In this wise, the MINADER actually develops programs such as:

- The renovation program on the development of professional Agriculture training
- The Support Program for the Installation of youth farmers
- The National Vulgarization Program and that on Agricultural Counselors
- The Program for the Development of Professional Organizations
- The Support Project for the Development of Rural Micro Finance (PADMIR)

## **2.2. Youth, employment and socio-economic integration**

Youths face difficulties in getting decent jobs. Indeed, unemployment and underemployment of youths, in particular, have attained very high proportions. Results from the Employment and Informal Sector Survey (EISS 2011) reveals that about 23.8% of youths aged as from 15 to 29 are unemployed, especially in urban areas. According to the **ILO**, global under-employment concerns about 94% and 84% of those aged 15-19 years and 20-24 years respectively. Rural youths are most affected by under-employment, with about 95% and 88% of rural youths aged 15-19 and 20-24 respectively underemployed as against 90% and 77% of urban youths of the same age brackets.

Besides, young people have difficulties getting into the job market and a majority of job seekers have dropped out of school ever before completing primary education (only 56% of the school population completes the cycle). However, since the advent of the economic crisis in the country, the number of highly skilled young people without job prospects, has increased and is a major cause for concern.

The job market is characterized by a high preponderance of informal jobs - 95% of young workers – that are becoming more and more precarious and independent with low wage earnings. That is why they continue to be attracted to public sector jobs which symbolize success. In short, the expectations of young workers, better educated than their elders, show a discrepancy between their legitimate aspirations and economic realities.

As a response to this worrying situation, the government, in 1990, created within the context of the social dimension of the structural adjustment plan, the National Employment Fund (NEF) to mediate in the job market and promote employment, and more recently, in December 2004, a whole ministry was created to take care of employment and vocational training. In order to ensure transparency in the job market and transform the informal sector, Government created the National Employment and Vocational Training Observatory (ONEFOP) and implemented the Integrated Support Project for stakeholders of the Informal Sector (PIAASI). In the major cities of Douala and Yaounde, experimental projects for disadvantaged youths are under way such as the Youth and Association Life for Social Inclusion (JEVAIS). For the insertion of youths, MINJEC is currently exploiting the PAJER-U initiative.

Nevertheless, unemployment and underemployment persist. The causes, particularly for youths, include the discrepancy between training and employment, discrimination in the labor market, low rate of job creation and lack of a creative spirit. Lack of information, high taxes and constraints related to the implementation of economic programs, slow economic growth and governance issues also account for the persistent unemployment and underemployment currently observed in our Nation.

## **2.3 Youth and Health**

In 1996, Cameroon adopted a framework law that aim at improving on the health of citizens throughout the national territory. It also adopted, in 2002, the Health Sector Strategy which places the enhancement of a quality health service, in particular and the general improvement of health care supply to the population, at the centre of its actions. Despite the efforts and actions carried out in this sector, the health situation remains a cause for concern especially among the youth as it is marked by poor nutrition, high mortality and morbidity as a result of malaria infection, high maternal mortality, high STDs rate, HIV and AIDS prevalence rate, poor access to health facilities and insecurity including, the difficulty in getting access to healthcare, sexual, physical and emotional violence, accidents and juvenile delinquency among others. The structural causes include poverty in families, promiscuity, unhealthy environmental and housing conditions, and overcrowding, low educational level as well as gender inequalities.

### **2.3.1: Maternal mortality among the youth**

In 2004, the maternal mortality rate was estimated at 669 maternal deaths for every 100,000 life births among women aged 15 to 49. This rate was 731 and 411 maternal deaths for every 100,000 life births from 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 years respectively. The high maternal mortality underscores the obstetric risk of pregnancy, abortions, childbirth, and HIV and AIDS in the country.

High maternal mortality in young women is due to:

- Non-assisted delivery by trained personnel;
- fertility;

- pregnancy;
- Premature motherhood and;
- The common practice of induced abortion.

### **2.3.2: Un-assisted deliveries.**

Delivery naturally has to occur in a recognized health center and under the supervision/assistance of professionals in the domain such that all risks liable to endanger both the life of the kid and the mother should be checked. In 2004, 83% of pregnant women attended antenatal clinic and 62% of deliveries were assisted by trained personnel. These indicators are almost identical with young mothers under 20 years of age. The low application of contraceptive methods and lack of family planning (FP) contribute towards induced abortions and its possible complications: 70% of abortion complications occur among women aged 10-24.

The limited capacity of health establishments to handle emergency obstetric cases also explains these high rates. The quality of care, inadequate quality and quantity of qualified personnel, the technical under equipment of health facilities as well as socio-cultural barriers underlie these practices.

### **2.3.3: Early pregnancy, motherhood and fertility**

In 2004, fertility rate in women aged 15 to 24 stood at 182.1 per 1000 persons. This age group thus accounted for 18% of the overall fertility rate estimated at 5 children per woman. Besides, 28.4% of adolescent girls aged 15-19 had already had a child (22.7%) or were pregnant with their first child (5.7%). Over 40% of adolescents had already begun childbearing.

The consequences of such early pregnancies include numerous abortions as well as the high infant mortality rate among others. The percentages of young girls with a child who declared to have made a voluntary termination of pregnancy are 1.7%, 4.5% and 5.4% for girls aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25 – 29 respectively. In addition, mortality rate in children under one year for young girls aged 15 to 19 years is 92 per 1000 as against 74 per 1000 persons in the general population.

### **2.3.4: Exposure to pregnancy risks and low use of contraceptives among the youths**

This exposure is due to the very low rate of use of contraceptives during sexual activity. In 2004 it was estimated that before reaching the age of 15, 25% of women aged 20-49 had already had sex, 87% before reaching the age of 20 and 93 % before reaching 25 years. Among young women aged 15-24, 34.4% had sex before the age 15 and among those aged 18-24, the vast majority (88%) had their first sexual intercourse before reaching 18 years. Among men aged 15-24, about 23% had their first sexual intercourse before the age of

15 and among 18-24 year olds, 82% had their first sexual intercourse before reaching the age of 18.

The practice of contraceptives is still not quite widespread. Among young women aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-29, 12.2%, 17.4% and 14.9% respectively use a modern contraceptive method. This low application of modern contraceptive methods, limited access to family planning, early marriages, the difference in marriage age between boys and girls, early sexual practice, lack of education in family life, unwanted pregnancies and insufficient information and education of the youth account for the determinants of the high maternal mortality.

### **2.3.5: High prevalence of HIV, AIDS and STDs among the youth**

The spread of the HIV virus has significantly reduced since 2004 with a drop from 5.5% to 4.3% in 2011. The spread rate of the said virus is almost double in women than men. This spread is very high in the Center, East, North West and South regions. In 2010, 5.5% of adults in Cameroon aged 15-49 were HIV positive. HIV prevalence among women of the same age group is higher than in men (6.8% as against 4.1%).

The youth seem more affected than other age groups. HIV prevalence rate in the 25-29 age groups is higher: 7.8% as against 5.5% in the general population, 10.3% in young women and 5.1% in young men. The percentage of young women (12.4%) and young men (14.5%) aged 20-24 who reported having had symptoms of an STD is slightly higher than for all women (9.2 %) and men (12.1%).

The prevalence of HIV and STIs in young people is linked mainly to high-risk sexual behavior (multiple partners, low use of condoms), the ignorance of the modes of transmission of the disease, parent to child transmission of HIV, to a lesser extent, low blood transfusion safety, poor treatment of HIV / AIDS, limited access to screening, strong stigmatization of HIV / AIDS patients, high cost of screening, insufficient number of screening centers, lack of human and material resources, multifarious prostitution, insufficient availability of condoms, low community involvement in control program, breakdown of family care, the negative socio-cultural practices as well as the lack of information on HIV, AIDS and STIs.

To organize the fight against AIDS, Government created the National AIDS Control Committee (NACC) whose work focuses on developing and conducting strategic control plans focused on prevention and treatment. The last Strategic Plan 2006-2010 and its operational plan take into account, as priority, the prevention of these plagues among youth. However, access to treatment remains difficult for this group of people given the cost of access to treatment, although subsidized.

### **2.3.6: Harmful Violent practices to the health of youths**

Psychological and physical violence exerted on young people deteriorates their health. Such practices include genital mutilation, breast ironing, sexual and domestic violence. Although the practice is not widespread in Cameroon (1.4% of women in 2004), female genital mutilation varies among women: it is 2.5% among girls aged 20-24, 4.8% among uneducated women and 12.7% in some ethnic groups in the Grand North.

Domestic violence affects nearly half of women (45%). They are notably linked to the role and social status our cultural environment attributes to women. In 2004, regardless of the type of violence considered, (physical, emotional or sexual) it often leads to serious consequences. In 21% of cases, violence has resulted in bruises or minor injuries and, in 15% of cases, in serious injuries or fractures.

These violent practices result from socio-cultural barriers, weakness in life skills, the breakdown in family supervision, abuse of alcohol and other harmful substances, lack of access to education on family life and lack of counseling for youths.

The premature marriages of girls below 15 years are frequent contrary to legal provision. Despite Ordinance No. 81/062 of 29 June 1981 which sets the marriage age at 15 years for girls and 18 for boys, more than half the women (54%) were already in marriage union before 18 years and nearly nine in ten women (88%) under 25 years. Any union contrary to this legal provision is not only premature but constitutes violence on the girl child. In Cameroon, between the years 2004-2006, the average age for marriages moved from 17.6 – 17 years. During this period, the difference is 2 years between the rural (16) and urban (18) zones.

These violent practices result from socio cultural peasantry, weak mastery of social life, the fall in family follow up, alcohol abuse alongside other stimulants, insufficient education on family life and the insufficient grooming of youths.

### **2.3.7: Resurgence of tuberculosis**

Tuberculosis remains a major cause of adult mortality despite the existence of effective treatment. Deaths caused by the disease account for 25% of preventable deaths in young adults. The resurgence of this disease is clearly exacerbated by the spread of HIV and AIDS. The prevalence of HIV/TB co-infection is estimated at 40% of the contagious forms. To fight against this scourge, the government created the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTCP), set up 189 testing centers as well as introduced free health care in 2004 among others.

### **2.3.8: High malaria related morbidity and mortality**

Malaria is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the general population and especially among children under five, pregnant women and youths.

In response to this epidemic, Government established the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) which has helped in building the technical and managerial capacities of

personnel, in the distribution of treated mosquito bed nets and in the shift in malaria treatment policy.

Despite these responses, high malaria related mortality and morbidity still persists. This is due to limited access to insecticide-treated nets, inadequate and insufficient prevention, poor hygiene and sanitation, lack of education of the youth in general and expensive and inaccessible treatments.

### **2.3.9: Drug addiction**

In this domain, the problem is that of the rise in drug, alcohol and tobacco consumption among others. Faced with this situation and in order to fight against drug addiction, Cameroon has ratified international conventions and adopted national regulation including:

- The Unique Convention on Narcotic Drugs signed on 30 March, 1961 in New York and which came into force on 13 December 1964;
- Convention on Psychotropic Substances, signed on 21 February, 1971 in Vienna, which came into force 16 August, 1976;
- Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, signed December 20, 1988 in Vienna;
- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 15 November 2000 on drug trafficking, extradition of drug traffickers and combat of money laundering;
- Law No. 90/035 of 10 August 1990 on the practice of the pharmacy profession;
- Law No. 97/019 of 7 August 1997 on drug control;
- Law No. 2004/013 of 21 April 2004 authorizing the President of the Republic to ratify the Protocol on Migrant Smuggling by Land, Sea and Air;
- Decree No. 92/456/PM of 24 November 1992 on the creation and organization of the National Anti-Drug Committee;
- Order No. 001145/MSP of 6 December 1995 creating and laying down the functioning of the National Drug Control Committee.
- Order No. 0016/AI/MINDIC/MSP/CAB of June 1999 on the inclusion of sanitary quotes on the cases of tobacco products.

The increase in drug addiction among youths is due to peer pressure, failure of family supervision, idleness among the youth and particularly the rising unemployment and the deterioration of support infrastructure for youth outside the school milieu.

### **2.3.10: Provision of services**

The population's access to essential drugs is one of the major concerns of government in the fight against poverty. The National Essential Drugs and Medical Consumables Supply

Centre (CENAME) and its decentralized organs were commissioned in 1998. Since then, the availability and accessibility to essential medicines at affordable prices have been effective throughout the country. Drug quality is now guaranteed thanks to the National Laboratory for Drug Quality Control and Expertise (LANACOME).

Despite these measures, the geographic access to drugs is not only limited, but further; the supply system is not entirely controlled, alongside the existence of parallel distribution canals.

### **2.3.11: Health care supply to youths**

Young people find it difficult to have access to quality health services. The reasons for this are related to the deficiencies in the health system in general and the non consideration of the peculiarities of youths.

First, the health system is characterized by an uneven distribution of health facilities and services, a highly centralized administrative system that ignores the economic realities of the sector, an underutilized public sector due to the breakdown in public infrastructure, insufficient qualitative and quantitative human resources, lack of a maintenance system, institutional weakness especially in the execution of investment budget, lack of traces in health investments for youths. There are also some major public health issues such as poor organization of primary health care, unavailability of and inaccessibility to essential quality drugs, insufficient development of the reference/counter system and the lack of an effective system of communication for behaviour change in health.

Again, the conspicuous absence of young people in community dialogue bodies, the financial incapacity of youths in a context wherein almost half the people live on less than a dollar a day, coupled with the absence of an insurance system at the level of parents, offers youths limited access to health care services as well as quality food supply. Despite the generally high level of knowledge about health concerns, young people often lack sufficient information about health services that are available for them.

## **2.4. Youth, food and nutrition**

Food insecurity affects about 25% of the population. Food availability has declined sharply since the early 1980s. The results of the national food supply situation per type of product, established in 1985, shows a deficit in covering the needs as follows: 36.8% in cereals, 53.2% in vegetables, 51% in vegetable oils and 74.1% in meat. This situation is more preoccupying as concerns cereals which are largely imported to meet the food needs of the country.

Malnutrition is a public health problem in Cameroon for children aged as from 0-5 years. As in most developing countries, food insufficiency affects young people, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Energy deficiency is most chronic among young women (15-19 years) (10%). Young women are generally less affected by obesity.



MINADER has, in the Rural Sector Development Strategy (RSDS), set as target, to attain the level of 2700 kcal/person/day in 2010 and 3100 Kcal/person/day by 2015. In this context, several programs aim at consolidating food self-sufficiency and improve incomes particularly in rural areas have been as others are currently implemented. These include the Food Security Program (FSP) and the National Agricultural Research and Extension Program (PNRVA) that ended recently. Funding support Instruments have also been put in place such as the Community Development Program (PRODEC), the Micro-Agricultural Community Investment Fund (FIMAC), the Cameroon Fisheries Development Authority (MIDEPECAM) the Maritime Fisheries Development Fund (MHRC), the Pilot Project for Decentralized Rural Credit, agricultural, savings and credit cooperatives and the Road Fund.

However, youths still suffer food shortages due to low agricultural production, lack of agricultural inputs, supply problems, nutritional imbalances, poor nutritional education, poor food quality and the low purchasing power of families

## **2.5. Youth and Poverty**

The proportion of the population living below the poverty line was estimated at 40.2% in 2001 though it stood at 53.3% in 1996. Despite this slight decline, poverty in rural and urban areas is very significant and leads to misery among the youth and the rise of delinquency, crime and drug abuse. This shows the correlation between poverty, peace and security. The future and stability of the nation depend on the actions taken to overcome poverty.

In 2006, it was estimated that over 90% of youths lived on less than a dollar a day. Poverty in general and poverty among the youths in particular varies widely from one region to the other. In urban areas the incidence is at 22% on average while in the rural areas where it attains the peak of 50%.

To curb this situation, the Government with the support of development partners, is implementing at the national level, the Poverty Reduction strategy and the Economic and Financial Memorandum and at the provincial level, the following programs:

- The National Program for Participatory Development (NPPD);
- Integrated Project for the Fight against Poverty and action in favor of women in the Far North province;
- The sub program "poverty reduction at the grassroots."

On its part, the Ministry in charge of youth affairs has for two years now been experimenting, the support program for rural youths in the fight against poverty (PAJER-U) in some provinces with the view to extending it throughout the country. The main determinants of poverty, which may vary from one region to another, are the drop in incomes and consumption, food insecurity, rising unemployment especially among young people, rising cost of living and the degradation of economic and social infrastructure.

## **2.6 Youth and Civic Participation**

### **2.6.1: Supervision of the Youth**

As concerns the institutional and regulatory framework, various provisions define the management and participation of youths. This consists essentially of:

- The creation in December 2004 of a ministry in charge of youth affairs with its main mission to define and implement government policy regarding the youth;
- The creation of training organs for personnel specialized in managing the youth such as the National Institute of Youth and Sports (INJS) and the National Center for Youth and Sports
- The creation in 2010 by the President of the Republic of the National Civic Service Agency for Participation in Development

The Legal instruments include:

1. Law No. 90/53 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of association;
2. Law No. 73-4 of 9 July 1973 to establish the National Civic Service for Participation in Development which provides counseling to unemployed youths aged 16 – 35 in rural and urban areas;
3. Decree No. 63/DF/227 of 16 July 1963 to create the Cameroon pioneer National Youth Movement;
4. Decree No. 69/DF/302 of 8 August 1969 to amend Decree No. 67/DF/503 of 21 November 1967 on the reorganization of Youth Movements and Popular Education.

At the operational level, the country has set up specialized structures under:  
-The Ministry of Youth Affairs such as the Multipurpose Youth Empowerment Centers (CMPJ), the National Civic Service for Participation in Development (SCNPD)

-Other ministries (MINAS, MINJUSTICE, MINPROFF, MINDUH)

-Private organizations and welfare agencies, organizations and associations

In addition, schools contribute through post and extra-curricular activities that focus on comprehensive development of the individual. The current youth organization framework is, however, inadequate. This is due to insufficient support structures, lack of infrastructure - school mentoring and financial resources, material and human resources, poor enforcement of regulations and insufficient recruitment of personnel due to constraints in the implementation of the economic policy since 1989.

### **2.6.2: Participation in social life and decision making**

The scenario in this domain is characterised by the weak involvement of Youths in decision making. This is explained by insufficient training organisations, an inadequate training Youths owing to the absence of an adapted legal framework, the inexistence of both a consultative council for youths and the hesitance of adults to involve the youths in the

decision making process. This reluctance results from generational conflicts, lack of a forum for dialogue between adults and the youth and the low representation of youths in decision-making bodies such as parliaments, local governments etc.

Public authorities are keen on involving the youths in decision-making at the highest level such as in the conduct of Children's Parliamentary sessions during the commemoration of the Day of the African Child. Many youth organizations contribute in their own way not only in seeking solutions to the problems facing youths, but also by involving them in the decision making process. The National Youth Day, which takes place on February 11 each year, is an opportunity to sensitize the national community on the challenges facing the youths. Similarly, Cameroon celebrates World Youth Day on 12 August every year.

In addition, the country implements the United Nations Global Action Program for Youths. It supports the participation of the Cameroonian youth at the African Union Youth rally. It promotes the organization of municipal councils for children and youth involvement in developing the strategic AIDS control plan and contributes in the development of the African Youth Charter. With the support of development partners, it experiments projects for youth's participation at the grassroots.

Problems impeding the participation of youths in social life including the inadequate participation of youths in official organs, insufficient dissemination of information among youth and the lack of representation criteria for young people in various organs.

### **2.6.3: Participation in environmental protection**

In this area, it has been observed that youths are not sufficiently involved in the protection of the environment. The root causes include:

- The low mobilization and lack of awareness on the need to protect a sustainable Environment;
- Shallow knowledge on the ecosystem;
  - Inadequate training on environment;
  - Insufficient information on environmental regulation;
  - Non-systematic enforcement of existing instruments.

Various reforestation operations have, however, been undertaken in the past in line with Operation Green Sahel. Actions should be considered for wastewater recycling and treatment of substances harmful to humans and nature, the fight against air pollution, proper disposal of urban wastewater and household wastes.

## **2.7 Youth and Human Rights**

### **Gender approach**

In the preamble of the constitution, all Cameroonians without discrimination are equal. Cameroon has also ratified several international conventions relating to the advancement of women, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against

Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of women in Africa of July 11, 2003. However, the data available in the various social sectors show significant disparities between girls and boys (education, vulnerability to HIV and AIDS, early marriages, etc.), thereby highlighting the discrimination against the girl child.

To address these situations of discrimination, Cameroon has adopted a policy statement to integrate women in development, which recommends the promotion of gender equality and equity in all sectors of society. Gender consideration features prominently in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). Alongside its bilateral and multilateral partners, government is strongly committed in promoting women, a political will implemented by the creation more than two decades ago, of a ministry in charge of women's empowerment.

The persistent current discrimination against the girl child reflects the ignorance of human rights, inadequate and poor dissemination of existing legal frameworks in the field of gender equality, illiteracy of parents and people, and social prejudices.

The culture of peace seems to be a set of values, attitudes and behaviors that may convey tolerance, dialogue, peace and mutual understanding. The low appropriation of the culture of peace among youths is reflected in the rising juvenile violence.

For governments, the basis for building lasting peace in Cameroon depends on:

- The enforcement and respect of the Constitution;
- The elaboration of a National Cultural Charter for youth education;
- the ongoing introduction of the culture of peace in school curricula;
- Training of teachers in the teaching of the culture of peace.

The Rise in juvenile violence is as a result of idleness, unemployment, increasing intolerance, community influence, and the poor education on peace, the negative influence of the media and the perverse effects of globalization.

### **2.7.2: Respect of Laws**

The constitutional revision of 18 January 1996, affirms the commitment of Cameroon to the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Charter, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and all international conventions related thereto and duly ratified. The aspect of the right that many youths most often claim is that of the voting age which the constitution sets at 20 years.

This situation is characterized by frequent violations of the rights of individuals and that of the youths is in particular caused by: the lack of information on rights, inadequate defense of rights through the application of existing laws, ignorance on the part of the youths of their own rights, inadequate human, material and financial resources in human rights defense organs, poor dissemination of existing legal frameworks, socio-cultural obstacles, inadequate youth education in law and respect of rules and principles in general and insufficient mobilization towards the consolidation of the rule of law.

### **2.7.3: Intergenerational relations**

**There is a recurrence of conflicts between generations, reflecting the lack of dialogue and the stigmatization of youths and the old. The root causes of this situation are: deviant behaviors and departure from standards and values by youths and adults, lack of forums for intergenerational dialogue, the inability of adults to handle teenage crisis, the negative image of youths portrayed by the media on youths, and socio-cultural barriers among others.**

### **2.7.4: Vulnerable youths and child trafficking**

The issue in this domain is the insufficient/inadequate protection of vulnerable youths. However, the regulatory framework for child protection is provided through:

- Law No. 83/013 of 21 July 1983 on the protection of disabled persons and its application Decree No. 90/1516 of 26 November 1990;
- Law No. 83/013 of 21 July 1983 on the protection of disabled persons;
- Decree N° 96/379/PM of 14 June 1996 creating and organizing the national committee for the rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of disabled persons;
- Ratification in 1998 of Convention 138 on the minimum employment age;
- The ratification in 2001 of Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor;
- Law No. 2005 / 015 of 29 December 2005 on the fight against trafficking in general and child trafficking in particular.

Several institutions have been created or are under creation in MINAS to take care of vulnerable and disabled youths. As for the protection of youth minors, a criminal procedure code has been adopted and is expected to be enforced. Furthermore, MINAS with the support of its partners, in 2005, developed two strategic plans to fight against sexual exploitation and child trafficking. Concerning the question of child labor and in compliance with Conventions 138 and 182 of the **ILO** on minimum age for admission to employment and the worst forms of child labor, Cameroon with the support of the ILO, has implemented the ILO / IPEC / LUTRENA and ILO / IPEC / WACAP projects.

Youths with disabilities, ethnic minorities living or working in the streets or in criminal situations, victims of early separation from their parents, orphaned, abused and other vulnerable youths affected or infected by HIV and AIDS continue to suffer from a lack of social protection. The reasons for this are: the stigmatization of vulnerable youths, inadequate organs and management staff, the degradation of family and social environment, the lack of recognition of vulnerability in social policy, low family income, increasing marital conflicts, ignorance of the rights of individuals, the persistence of socio-cultural barriers, non

consideration of the specific needs of vulnerable people and the lack of information on social players.

### **2.7.5: Social Security**

Youths and especially those in need of special protection, have the right to a decent life, social security, motherhood protection, medical care and protection in case of disability or old age.

The social security system is insufficient as a result of lack of a comprehensive strategy. Only a small proportion of youths, the salaried workers governed by the labor code and public sector workers (about 10% of employees), are theoretically covered. Non-salaried youths in the rural sector (55% of the workforce) and the informal sector, temporary employees, other active and non-salaried workers are not covered by the system. Existing social insurance schemes are inadequate and insufficient because of disparities in existing plans, inadequate coverage in health and industrial safety and bottlenecks in the procedures for access to statutory benefits.

Cognisant of these problems, government has created a ministry in charge of social security. Besides, the National Social Insurance Fund and a Social Security Steering Committee were created to reform this sector. The State has also sponsored ten (10) studies to reform social security and developed the social security reform strategy.

The completion of the reform initiatives is expected to address the problems of the observation and treatment of diseases and industrial accidents, the social insurance coverage of youths and the general population, improvement of the working environment and the protection of vulnerable youths.

## **2.8. Youth, recreation, sports, culture and tourism**

Sports, leisure, culture and tourism contribute in mobilizing, guiding and educating young people.

### **2.8.1: Culture, leisure and Tourism**

This domain is characterized by the lack of cultural activities and the insufficiency of recreational and tourism facilities for young people.

Yet, the government, through the creation of the ministries in charge of culture, tourism and leisure for youths has shown its political will to provide necessary guidance and boost required to remedy the situation. Operational wise, vacation activities are organized in accordance with regulations. The construction of socio-educational infrastructure is governed by laws and regulations including Law No. 74/22 of 5 December 1974 which requires that any development, school or university construction, or the construction of residential or industrial buildings should provide proportionately to the population concerned, separate sites necessary for the development of sports and socio-educational infrastructure. Regarding culture, the biennial organization of the UNIFAC (University Festival of Arts and Culture) promotes healthy competition for student artists.

The weak absence of leisure, cultural and tourism facilities for youths is due to poor infrastructure and structures, lack of promotion of cultural, tourism and recreational activities, absence of qualified and specialized personnel, lack of a culture of leisure and tourism, poor investment by the private sector and local and regional authorities and weak enforcement of the law on leisure facilities. This situation is exacerbated by the lack of incentives, protection of cultural works, planning of cultural, tourism and leisure activities, inadequate support to tourism and cultural activities, insufficient training facilities and personnel, inadequacy of existing legal provisions in some areas. Other specific causes of the weakness of tourism amenities for youths include the inadequacy of these amenities, lack of access and the high cost of services offered, the lack of information and low income of youths.

### **2.8.2: Physical education and sports**

Sports just like other educational activities that contribute to the guidance and training of youths. Cameroon has scored undisputed results in sports. The Government is also developing grassroots sports for health maintenance and an improved Physical state of youths in schools by trained personnel. Youths do not generally practice enough sports and physical education enough because of poor valuation of physical education at school, poor enforcement of existing laws, insufficient and uneven distribution of financial, material and human resources, alongside infrastructural barriers.

## **2.9 Youth, communication and ICTs**

### **2.9.1: Information Technology, Communication and the Media.**

In present day social context is based on information economy and communication technology (ICT), in particular, Internet-based technologies offer many possibilities. Despite a favorable national context and the open mindedness of youths on ICTs, this segment of the population still encounter difficulty of gaining access to ICTs.

Public authorities have expressed their political will to promote ICTs through the creation of the National Agency for the Development of Information and Communication Technology (ANTIC); the introduction of computer courses in the secondary school curriculum; the creation of multimedia centres in some schools; computer training in higher education institutions; densification of communication systems and the popularization of the Internet.

Despite these initiatives, the difficulties of youth to gain access to these facilities still persists due to their limited supply, their unequal distribution, negative perception of the use of these tools and high cost of access. Indeed, the development of ICTs is not adequately planned, incentives for investment are lacking, and rural areas are almost marginal.

### **2.9.2: Communication**

For the youth, communication is a vital source of information and provides opportunities for income generating activities. Regarding the media, the rich and diverse landscape is comprised of modern communication channels, public and private audio-visual

canals, scripts, as well as the traditional media. Information is broadcast in English, French and some national languages. Despite these undeniable advances, the current situation is still marked by insufficient offer of specialized information for youths and their weak involvement in media production. Since the link between media, information and communication technology, and globalization is strong, youths are exposed to the risk of acculturation and loss of their roots.

To address this situation, Government has created a higher institute of communication, a separate ministry to prepare and implement government policy on communication. It has also established a legal framework that enshrines freedom of expression including laws No. 90/052 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of social communication and law No. 96/04 of 4 January 1996 on administrative censorship.

Problems in this sector include the lack of professionalization of some social communicators and the inaccessibility to national and local information. This is due to inadequate training of professionals, a strong presence of international media especially in urban areas, lack of facilities in rural areas and low incentives for local investment in communication.

## **2.10. Globalization and partnership for youth development**

State authorities have received immense support from many national and international partners, public or private organizations, NGOs, charity organizations or associations, in their quest to improve on youth development. Contributions towards these initiatives need to be strengthened because the current situation is characterized by the lack of support for youth programs.

The country benefits from bilateral and multilateral cooperation whose contributions to youth empowerment are indisputable. These include: the UN, the European Union, the Francophonie, the CONFEJES, Commonwealth and friendly countries.

It is worth mentioning that several national youth associations are working towards the guidance and consideration of the aspirations and demands of the youth.

The inadequate support for youth programmes results from the lack of planning and advocacy, lack of mobilization of international resources, poor governance and institutional inability to mobilize resources.

### **2.10.1: Regional and sub-regional integration**

In order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it is advisable to consolidate regional and international cooperation through the establishment of a global partnership for development.

Regional integration within the CEMAC and more broadly the ECCAS is for Cameroon, one of the major components of its policy development and represents a growth potential that remains to be achieved. These two great geopolitical units, by virtue of their



population size and their resources, constitute real economic regions that can contribute to the development and economic integration of the youth through harmonized educational systems.

However, youths find it difficult to travel within the region and the sub-region because school and university programmes have not been harmonized, and because of the ineffective implementation and dissemination of regional and sub-regional agreements, the existence of regional conflicts, persistent national self interest, lack of sub regional training centres, absence of regional and sub regional scholarships, poor follow-up of youths in the Diaspora.

Moreover, there is a low participation of youths in international forums and bodies, due to insufficient government support and inefficient organization of the youths themselves.

### **2.10.2: Globalization**

Globalization is characterized by a rise in trading activity, growth in trade and financial investment, increased technology flow, standardization of consumer tastes, reduction in the forums for the expression of national sovereignty and the standardization of growing social values. It is a moment for youths to avail themselves of the opportunities to accommodate the challenges on the international scene through high level sporting competitions and the development of quality and performance.

### **2.11: Youth and the Environment**

The environmental situation in Cameroon highlights a variety of problems ranging from land degradation, biodiversity, through potable water quality, to urban pollution with the resultant harm to human health. For over a decade, Government is committed, through the NEMP and various other initiatives to improving the environmental quality of the country. Cameroon's environmental profile underscores three observations: institutional weakness that hinders the effective integration of environment into sectoral policies; a continuing depletion of forest biodiversity. While waiting for the implementation of PSFE, there is a real human health risk and social explosion in the short run, related to environmental degradation in urban areas and in particular industrial pollution and access to soluble drinking water.

Youths who make up the vast majority of the population are less involved in the process of sustainable management and protection of the environment. There is a discrepancy between the many opportunities offered by the environment and the low involvement of youths in the sustainable management process.

## **CHAPTER III: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY**

### **3.1 The base of the National Youth Policy**

The elaboration of the National Youth Policy is a tool in responding to the problems of youths in a bid to transform them into ideal agents of Cameroon's emergence. It also finds its essence in the respect of the local and international engagements recognised by the state as priority areas towards the construction of an exemplary, prosperous and peaceful republic in a state of law, which is resolutely focused towards combating poverty and fostering national development.

#### **3.1.1: At the International and National Spheres**

To contribute towards the accomplishment of youths, a host of measures have been taken in their favour by international organisations. These measures are geared towards reinforcing the complete and responsible participation of youths in the management of public affairs as well as the socio economic development of their country. Other attachments in this wise include the fundamental liberties enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the Charters of the United Nations, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. We can further mention;

- The resolution 34/151 adopted by the general assembly of the United Nations in 1979 which designated in "the International Year of Youths" (AIJ) in 1985 as well as consecrated the decade embodying the years 1985-1995 as the the International Decade for Youths.
- The June 1983 Regional Action Plan designed during the preparatory AIJ meeting of Addis Abeba which has as a strong recommendation the total participation of youths in the socio economic development of Africa
- The World Plan for the education of all peoples adopted during the World Conference on education for all (Jomtien 1990)
- The resolution instituting the Youth Insertion Fund approved by the conference of French speaking youth and sport Ministers, to respond to the numerous youth problems following their installation
- The World Youth Program (PAMJ) adopted by the United Nation General Assembly which held at Addis Abeba on March 13 1996 and which formulated a number of practical directives aimed at guiding the elaboration of a National Youth Policy
- The dispositions put in place by the 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Minister's World Conference which held in Lisbon as from August 08 – 12 1998 on the implementation of the PAMJ
- The African Youth Charter adopted in 2005 and ratified by Cameroon in 2011 which defines the State's engagement towards youths as well as the rights and obligations of youths

- The concensus document of the 5<sup>th</sup> African Development Forum (ADF V) on youths and leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

### **3.1.2: At the National level**

The National Youth Policy finds its base in the fundamental law of the land as well as in the strategies developed to foster the well being of the Cameroonian people.

In fact, it fosters the respect for the fundamental principles and rights of Cameroonians such as those enshrined in the constitution, notably:

- The right to settle anywhere alongside the freedom of circulation throughout the national territory, subject to the strict respect of law and order, security and public peace
- The protection of the family, the natural base of the human society, and that of the woman, youths, aged persons and handicaps,
- The right to education,
- The right to a clean environment,
- The right and duties of all men and workers

The National Youth Policy also finds its base on the Great Realisation policy of the state, a long term vision aimed at making Cameroon emergent, democratic, united and diversified country come 2035, and the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper which operationalises the said vision during the decade embodying the years as from 2010-2020. It also draws its inspiration from different development oriented instruments by public authorities such as:

- Laws orienting the health, educative, teaching, public and private sector domains
- The National Governance Program
- The development strategy in the social sector
- The development strategy of the rural sector
- The National Policy of the Population

### **3.2 The Youth Vision**

Youths represent one of the components in the chain “infancy-youths-the adult age-65+” which marks the life of an individual. For the agencies of the United Nations, youths correspond to the age group as from 14 – 24, for the Commonwealth, it falls within the age group as from 14 – 29, and for the CONFEJES, youths occupy the age group as from 12 – 35.

In Cameroon, the decree No 63/DF/227 of July 16 1963 situates youths as from 12 – 30 years. In a more general approach, youths engulf, all they who even at 40, are still dependent on their parents.

In the light of all the preceeding factors, the present policy however defines youths as “all persons aged as from 15 and 35”

That said, youths are confronted in many domains of national life to multiple problems and obstacles. To resolve this problem and carry out intervention strategies for their benefit, an orientation ground has been elaborated for youths. It leans on the strategic vision for youths from which are envisaged necessary strategic measures to render this group of youths accomplished.

This vision, in line with that of the State, aims at making youths:

“Become, come 2035, an accomplished, responsible, creative and dynamic youth, resolutely engaged towards the realisation of the Nations development goals”

To be more explicit, we retain that:

- A fulfilled youth is an individual who after the resolution of the problems he faces, is able to fully express himself as well as exploit his full potentials for his benefit
- A responsible youth is an individual who, befitting from a real autonomy and animated by a civic spirit, is capable to appreciate his/her actions as well as manifest his/her availability towards nation building
- A creative youth is an individual who, gifted with imagination and a high spirit of invention, is capable of developing the spirit of entrepreneurship towards sustaining economic development
- A dynamic youth is an individual who is full of energy and in a good state of health, who is vibrant in a bid to efficiently play a central role in the development of his nation
- A fully engaged youth is an individual who strongly adheres to the development goals of the nation, and who resolutely engages himself in Nation building

For the effective implementation of this youth vision the respect of a number of principles is advised.

### **3.3: Principles and values**

Following an approach by rights, the National Youth Policy is based on clear guiding principles accepted by all players involved in its definition, implementation and evaluation.

#### **3.3.1 Principles**

Six (06) principles summarise the National Youth Policy

**1) Principle of relevance:** the objectives and strategies should be adapted to the expectations and needs of youths based on the issues identified;

**2) Principle of consistency:** this policy has to facilitate the consideration accorded to youth elements in the government policy and guarantee a complementarity, a convergence and a coordination of interventions, indispensable towards the promotion of the full accomplishment of youths;

**3) Principle of effectiveness:** the strategies developed have to contribute in resolving the problems youth face;

**4) Principle of efficiency:** Proposed activities must take into account the most cost effective relations to guarantee the optimum use of resources made available;

**5) Principle of sustainable development:** these policy guidelines must help solve immediate problems without undermining the potentials of future generations;

**6) Principle of equity:** the National Youth Policy is based on equal opportunities for different groups of young people regardless of gender, physical ability, social status, living environment, etc...;

### **3.2. 2 Values**

In order to meet the challenges of the national community, the National Youth Policy is organized around the values of solidarity, peace, responsibility, civic duty, tolerance, autonomy, work, creativity, innovation, self-confidence, respect for each other, respect for the environment, democracy, initiative, openness, gender equality, social justice, intercultural understanding, excellence, freedom of speech, humanism, consensus, success and sustainability.

These values must master local cultures that underpin the attitudes and behaviours of the youth and enable them to have self-confidence, to project into the future and to meet with others. In this perspective, globalization to which this policy is opened calls for the development of local resources to better express its contribution to humanity.

### **3.4: Purpose**

The National Youth Policy proposes to “assure, come 2020, the integral accomplishment of youths by creating favourable conditions for their well being and their socio economic insertion for an active and determinant participation towards the sustainable development of the Nation”

### **3.5: Strategic Domain**

To implement the vision and take into consideration the engagement subscribed at the international level, ten (10) strategic intervention domain have been defined from the ten (10) defined by the World Action Program, which are:

- Domain 1: Education and Formation
- Domain 2: Employment and socio economic insertion
- Domain 3: Health
- Domain 4: Food and Nutrition Security
- Domain 5: Youth participation in social life and decision-making

- Domain 6: Youth, Communication and ICT
- Domain 7: Youth, Human Rights and the Culture of Peace
- Domain 8: Youth, Leisure, Sports, Culture and Tourism
- Domain 9: Partnership and Cooperation for Youth Empowerment
- Domain 10: Youth and the Environment.

### **3.6: Objectives and strategies**

The resolution of the multi dimensional problems youths face is attained through some objectives and strategies divided into several domains as follows:

#### *Strategic Domain 1: Education and Training*

**Strategic Objective 1:** Increase the efficiency of the education system

**Specific Objectives 1:** Ameliorate the internal and external returns to the education system

Strategy 1.1: Ameliorate access of students and teachers to pedagogic material (books, audio-visual support, ICTs)

Strategy 1.2: Quality systemic training of teachers

Strategy 1.3: Adaptation of the training of teachers to those of learners in line with the evolution of the job market

Strategy 1.4: Creation of sufficient/adequate infrastructure and equipment while ameliorating the geographical accessibility to education sites

Strategy 1.5: Ameliorate the working conditions of teachers

**Specific Objective 2:** Ameliorate the grooming of extra scholar youths

Strategy 2.1: Creating socio educative and sporting infrastructure in compliance with urbanization rules

Strategy 2.2: recruiting and training of youth personnel in the school and extra school milieu

Strategy 2.3: the development of an education to the extra school structures

Strategy 2.4: the production of educative tools destined to extra school activities

Strategy 2.5: the rehabilitation of existing structures

Strategy 2.6: support for the creation of structures adapted to youth grooming activities

Strategy 2.7: the creation and equipping of youth grooming structures by decentralised local collectivities and the private sector

Strategy 2.8: Ameliorate the management of extra school structures

## ***Strategic Domain 2: Employment and socio economic insertion***

**Strategic objective:** Promote the acces of youths to a decent employment

**Specific objectives 1:** Ameliorate the access of youths to remunerated jobs

Strategy 1.1: adaptation of the training system to the needs of the productive system

Strategy 1.2: promotion of quality professional training for youths

Strategy 1.3: ameliorate the capacity of the private sector

Strategy 1.4: ameliorate the capacity of the public sector

Strategy 1.5: develop the offer of internships to youths

Strategy 1.6: support to the socio professional insertion/reinsertion of youths

Strategy 1.7: ameliorate the recruitment conditions of personnel in the public and private sector

Strategy 1.8: develop an information system on employment offers in public and private structures

Strategy 1.9: reinforce institutional capacities regarding the management of employment offers for youths in public and private structures

**Specific Objective 2:** Develop auto employment among youths

Strategy 2.1: promotion of the culture of entrepreneurship in youths

Strategy 2.2: promotion of the migration of actors from the informal to the formal sectors

Strategy 2.3: promotion of an indicative ground for the creation and expansion of youth enterprises

Strategy 2.4: promotion of the implementation of incubator enterprises

Strategy 2.5: implementation of a financing mechanism for the creation of youth enterprises

Strategy 2.6: ameliorate the conditions for the installation and maintaining of youths in the rural milieu

## ***Strategic Domain 3: Health***

**Strategic Objective:** Ameliorate the Health situation of youths

**Specific Objective 1:** Ameliorate the access of youths and adolescents to health services

Strategy 1.1: the putting in place of a social security system taking into consideration youths in their diversities

Strategy 1.2: Amelioration and growth in the availability of convivial health service for youths

Strategy 1.3: develop an efficient communication system for the change of comportments

Strategy 1.4: ameliorate the participation of youths in the management of health service offers

Strategy 1.5: reinforcement of qualitative and quantitative human resources personnel

**Specific Objective 2:** reduce the prevalence of epidemics, illnesses and pandemics

Strategy 2.1: promotion of the offer of counselling and grooming

Strategy 2.2: promotion of rights and the reinforcement of the mechanisms of youth grooming

Strategy 2.3: reinforce human and material resources

Strategy 2.4: the introduction of units on competence, day to day life and sex education in schools and extra school milieu

Strategy 2.5: reinforce the communication strategy for the change in comportments

Strategy 2.6: growth in the availability and accessibility to condoms

Strategy 2.7: reinforce the implication of communities in the fight against STDs, HIV and SIDA

**Specific objective 3:** promote a healthy sexual and reproduction activity among youths

Strategy 3.1: reinforcement of the capacity training sessions towards emergency interventions for adolescents and young girls

Strategy 3.2: reduction of socio cultural and economic barriers unfavourable to assisted delivery by qualified personnel

Strategy 3.3: reinforcement of contraceptive offer methods

Strategy 3.4: specific reduction of premature sexual activity among youths in particular and most especially among women

Strategy 3.5: reinforcement of education on family life among adolescents and young girls

Strategy 3.6: reduction of premature marriages especially among girls

Strategy 3.7: Harmonisation of legal dispositions on marriage

Strategy 3.8: reinforcement of the communication system for the change in comportments

**Specific objective 4:** reduce the consumption of drugs and alcohol among youths

Strategy 4.1: reinforcement of the grooming of youths in prevention methods, as well as the usage and abuse of drug consumption

Strategy 4.2: reinforcement of a legal and institutional framework against the consumption of substances dangerous to health

Strategy 4.3: reinforce youth capacities regarding competence and day to day life

Strategy 4.4: ameliorate the grooming of dependent people



Strategy 4.5: Ameliorate the international cooperation in the control of the fight against the consumption of dangerous substances

#### ***Strategic Domain 4: food and nutrition security***

**Strategic Objective:** Guarantee a sufficient and quality nutrition supply to youths

**Specific Objective 1:** Promote youth insertion in food production

Strategy 1.1: Ameliorate the access to production means

Strategy 1.2: Ameliorate the access of inputs and modern techniques of production

Strategy 1.3: reinforce youth capacities regarding production

Strategy 1.4: development of infrastructure and equipment in the rural milieu

**Specific objective 2:** ameliorate the quality of youth nutrition

Strategy 2.1: reinforce the capacity of youths on food education

Strategy 2.2: reinforce the institutional capacity of nutritive education

Strategy 2.3: develop a communication strategy for the change in compartments regarding nutrition issues.

Strategic Domain 5: Participation in society life and the decision making process

**Strategic objective 5:** promote the full and effective participation of youths in day to day society life

**Specific Objective 1:** Ameliorate the implication of youths in the grooming process

Strategy 1.1: Actualise the legal framework relative to the youth associative milieu

Strategy 1.2: reinforce the capacity of youths in the management and animation of associative organisations

Strategy 1.3: promotion of a communication platform for expression, dialogue and youth consultation

Strategy 1.4: realisation and update of a directory of youth associations and youth promotion

Strategy 1.5: valorisation of youth initiatives with regard to associative activity

Strategy 1.6: Amelioration of intergenerational dialogue for the fight against generational conflict, a source of regarding youth organisations

**Strategic objective:** Enhance the implication of youths in the process of sustainable development

Strategy 2.1: reinforcement of institutional capacities for the protection of the environment and natural resources

Strategy 2.2: reinforcement of youth capacities in the management and protection of both the ecosystem and the environment

Strategy 2.3: Amelioration of the application of environmental legislation

Strategy 2.4: development of a quality urban habitat

Strategy 2.5: Amelioration of the access to portable water

### ***Strategic Domain 6: Communication and ICT***

**Strategic objective:** Ameliorate youth communication

**Specific objective 1:** Improve on the participation of youths in the information and the use of knowledge

Strategy 1.1: reinforce incitive measures for the benefit of youth's access to ICT

Strategy 1.2: promotion of the use of ICT for the development of youths

Strategy 1.3: reinforce the capacity of parents and youths in the use of ICT

**Specific Objective 2:** Facilitate the access of youths to specific information

Strategy 2.1: Promote youth information structures and documentation

Strategy 2.2: Development of youth media

Strategy 2.3: Sensitise producers of information on the ease of youth access to the media

**Specific objective 3:** reinforce intergenerational dialogue

Strategy 3.1: the promotion of harmonious social comportments

Strategy 3.2: the reduction in the perception of norms and values among youths and adults

Strategy 3.3: reinforce the capacity to arrest adolescent and youth problems

Strategy 3.4: reinforcement of the confidence between generations

Strategy 3.5: Promotion and diversification of forms of intergenerational dialogue

Strategy 3.6: Promotion of full and effective participation of youths on society life

### ***Strategic Domain 7: Human Rights and the culture of Peace***

**Strategic objective:** To promote the respect of Human Rights and the culture of peace

**Specific Objective:** Ameliorate on the knowledge and respect of human rights in youth milieu

Strategy 1.1: Alphabetisation of parents and the promotion of youth rights

Strategy 1.2: Reinforcement of the fight against dangerous socio cultural practices

Strategy 1.3: Reinforcement of the vulgarisation and defence mechanisms on youth rights

**Specific Objective 2:** Ensure the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and freedoms for all youths

- Strategy 2.1: Develop the capacities of actors involved in the protection of vulnerable youths
- Strategy 2.2: Increase the popularization of youth rights.
- Strategy 2.3: Reduction to socio cultural obstacles specific to vulnerable youths.
- Strategy 2.4: The increased consideration of vulnerable youths in social policies.
- Strategy 2.5: Reinforce the capacity of parents to manage adolescence.
- Strategy 2.6: Reinforcement of the family care regulations.

**Specific objectives 3:** Develop the culture of peace among youths

- Strategy 3.1: Creation of exchange and dialogue platforms to discuss matters of youth concerns.
- Strategy 3.2: The orientation of youths towards programs for the development of life skills
- Strategy 3.3: Promotion of tolerance and social justice
- Strategy 3.4: Building a critic-mind for youths in media issues
- Strategy 3.5: Development of youth employment and leisure
- Strategy 3.6: Reinforcement of the capacities of youths and supervisors in peace culture

### ***Strategic Domain 8: Sports, Culture, Tourism and Leisure***

**Strategic objective 8:** Promote the access of youths to sporting, cultural, touristic and leisure activities.

**Specific objective 1:** increase the supply of sporting activities for young people, bearing in mind the disabled.

Strategy 1.1: Strengthening the effective application of physical education laws in schools

Strategy 1.2: Development of physical education infrastructures in schools

Strategy 1.3: Strengthening the capacity of school and university sport organizations

Strategy 1.4: Strengthening of human and financial resources for physical education in schools

Strategy 1.5: development of proximity Infrastructure for the practice of physical education and sports

Strategy 1.6: Rehabilitation of the existing infrastructure for sports and physical education

Strategy 1.7: Valorization of all sports disciplines

**Specific objective 2:** Increase cultural activities for young people, bearing in mind the disabled

Strategy 2.1: Strengthening the institutional capacity of the cultural sector

Strategy 2.2: Strengthening the capacity of youth in the production and protection of cultural works

Strategy 2.3: Strengthening incentives for cultural production

Strategy 2.4: Getting local authorities, the private sector and civil society fully involved in the development of the cultural sector

**Specific objective 3:** Diversifying national leisure and tourism for young people, bearing in mind the disabled

Strategy 3.1: strengthening the national institutional capacity for youth tourism

Strategy 3.2: development of a culture of tourism

Strategy 3.3: improving youth access to tourism services

Strategic Domain 9: Partnership and Cooperation for the Promotion of youth

**Strategic objective 9:** strengthen partnership and cooperation for the benefit of young people

**Specific objective 1:** strengthen international regional and sub-regional youth cooperation

Strategy 1.1: Strengthening of sub-regional and regional cooperation on the Exchange and sharing strategy

1.2: Increased support of Governments for the participation of young people in various meetings

Strategy 1.3: Organizational development and integration of the regional and sub-regional associative milieu

Strategy 1.4: Dense popularization of regional and sub-regional laws

Strategy 1.5: Improve on the participation of Cameroonian youth of the Diaspora to nation-building

Strategy 1.6: Provision of suitable conditions for the return of Cameroonian youths of the Diaspora

**Specific objective 2:** enhance exchanges and participation of young people at international, regional and sub-regional levels

Strategy 2.1: systemic consideration of young people problems in developmental planning

Strategy 2.2: strengthening multispectral partnership for youth

Strategy 2.3: Mobilization of the Cameroonian Diaspora

Strategy 2.4: Improving the economic and social governance of youth organizations

Strategy 2.5: Development of a partnership framework between public and private sectors as well as development partners and youth organizations

### ***Strategic Domain 10: Environment***

**Strategic objective 10:** improve the level of involvement of young people in the process of management and sustainable protection of the environment

**Specific objective 1:** increase the number of competent young people in the management and sustainable protection of the environment

Strategy 1.1 the provision of environment databases to youth in order to improve on their capabilities

Strategy 1.2 Introducing environmental education programs in primary, secondary and teacher training schools.

Strategy 1.3: Design of blueprint for management and sustainable protection of the environment for students and teachers.

Strategy 1.4 Awareness of young people about the issues and challenges of environmental management and protection

Strategy 1.5: strengthening the capacities of youth associations and movements militating for environmental protection.

**Specific objective 2:** develop alternative energy sources

Strategy 2.1: popularization of information about renewable energy production technologies

Strategy 2.2: Support for innovation in renewable energy production (Creation of a higher Institute of engineering and environmental management, etc.)

**Specific objective 3:** Develop employment opportunities associated with the management and the sustainable protection of the environment

Strategy 3.1: Promotion of environmental trade

Strategy 3.2: Support for the establishment of companies in the environmental sector

## **CHAPTER IV: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

In order to fully implement the national youth policy, the interventions in support of the youth must have a multispectral approach involving all stakeholders: government departments decentralized territorial communities, development partners, private sector and civil society. Moreover in order to have an effective coherent and harmonious participation of the aforementioned players, this chapter dwells on the institutional implementation of execution agencies, National Youth Observatory, the coordination of intervention, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

### **4.1 - Institutional Framework for Implementation of the National Youth Policy**

The proposed institutional framework for implementation of the national youth policy is organized at two levels: at the strategic level and at the operational level

#### **4.1.1 - The strategic level**

This level involves two organs: the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee.

##### **4.1.1.1 - The Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee is the organ for overall coordination, supervision and management of the national youth policy. Chaired by the Prime Minister, head of Government, it is made up of all sartorial ministries. It meets once a year in ordinary and/or extraordinary sessions, convened based on needs.

##### **4.1.1.2 - Technical Committee**

The Technical Committee's mission is to support the Ministry of Youth Affairs in the implementation of the national youth policy. As such, it is notably responsible for:

- Implementing the directives of the Steering Committee;
- Youths Advocacy for the mobilization of resources and support by internal and external partners.
- Ensure the follow-up and periodic evaluation of the implementation of the national youth policy.

The technical Committee; Chaired by the Ministry of Youth, in conjunction with the Ministry of planning, development and international technical cooperation, is composed of representatives of the ministerial departments dealing with youth issues, decentralized territorial communities, civil society organizations and development partners. It meets twice a year.

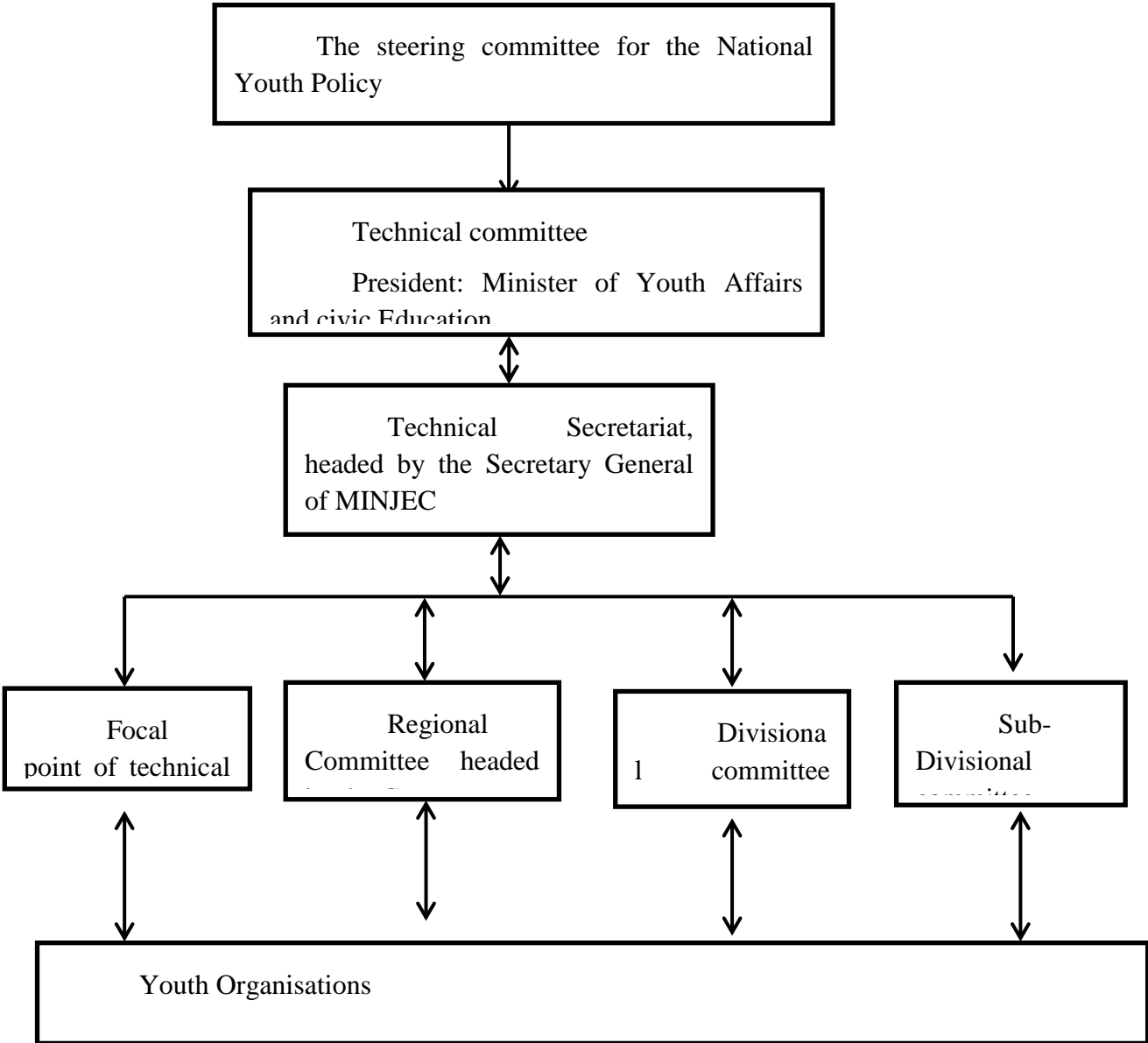
The Technical Committee shall be assisted by a Technical Secretariat which, under the coordination of the Secretary General of the Ministry in charge of Youth Affairs, includes a team of research executives. The missions of the technical secretariat are to ensure the relay between the Technical Committee and the operational bodies, maintain dialogue with the parties involved in the implementation of the national youth policy and prepare files to be submitted to the Technical Committee.

**4.1.2 - The operational level**

The Technical Committee is relayed on the field, by regional, divisional and districts committees under the respective coordination of Governors, divisional and senior divisional officers. They are in the image of the Technical Committee, the representatives of regional services of sartorial ministries, decentralized local authorities and civil society.

The graph below shows the framework of implementation of the above described national policy of the family.

Figure 1: Institutional arrangements for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Youth Plan



## **4.2 - Agencies for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy**

The ministerial departments, local decentralized communities, partners in development, the private sector, civil society are the main agencies that implement the National Youth Policy.

In this respect, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education will have to impulse, stimulate, coordinate, control and monitor activities, as described above.

The other ministerial departments must develop and implement programs and specific projects for young people in relation to their respective missions.

Local Territorial Communities will have to carry out, for their part, local development actions for youth, as specified in the national youth policy.

The Development Partners should assist the Government in the implementation of the national youth policy, while civil society and the private sector will support the programs and projects initiated by the national youth policy.

## **4.3 – National Youth Observatory**

In addition to the stakeholder identified above, it seems necessary to consider setting up a National Youth Observatory; watchdog under the Youth Ministry, which will be responsible for the maximum implementation of the national youth policy. This structure should also play a role of foresight in making projections and anticipating the problems and concerns of young people.

## **4.4 - Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Technical Committee, under the supervision of the Steering Committee, ensures monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the national youth policy. As such, she organizes the operational monitoring and evaluation of all actions in this framework.

On the field, monitoring and assessment activities are carried out by local committees (regional, divisional and sub-divisional).

Monitoring and evaluation of the national youth policy reports are produced at different levels, by the parties involved and transmitted to the Technical Secretariat which consolidates them in a semi-annual and/or annual reports to be submitted to the Technical and the Steering Committee.



## **CONCLUSION**

The Cameroon youth has always benefitted from a peculiar attention from the government, through diverse actions carried out in their favour, although, the said programs and initiatives destined to them have not always produced the awaited results, possibly owing to their insufficient coordination.

It's in order to remedy this situation that the government attributed to itself this framework for the orientation of its actions in order to harmonise the interventions of diverse parties.

The National Youth policy reflects a vision which represents the firm will of the public authorities in transforming youths into vibrant agents of Cameroons emergence. It enrolls itself in the global dynamism of valorisation and autonomisation of youths in line with their active participation in the fight against poverty.

The National Youth Policy also acts as a performance tool which takes into consideration essential preoccupations such as HIV, SIDA, STDs, gender approach, environmental protection, employment, professional training as well as promotes the active involvement of youths in the management of State affairs.

As a reference document, this policy draws its inspiration from the vision of the State come 2035 in line with the Growth and Employment Strategy Document operating in the period as from 2010 – 2020. The enforcement of this policy is a strong and hugely federating gesture in all the domains of day to day life, in a bid to make youths accomplished, responsible, creative and dynamic, fully engaged in the attainment of National developmental goals.

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