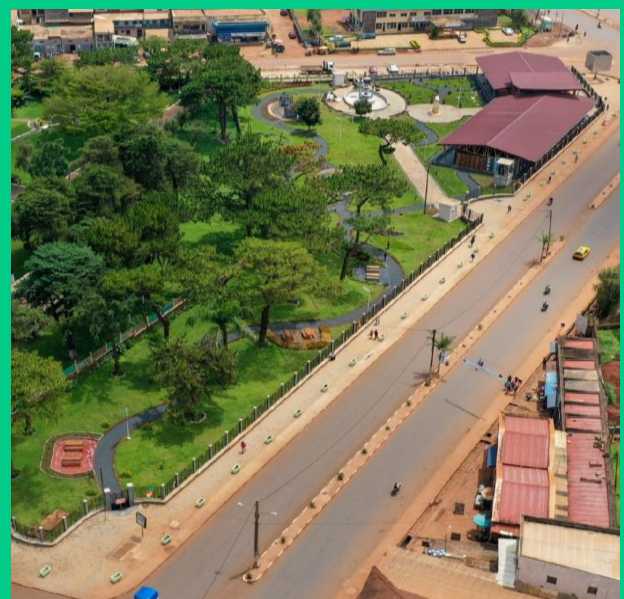
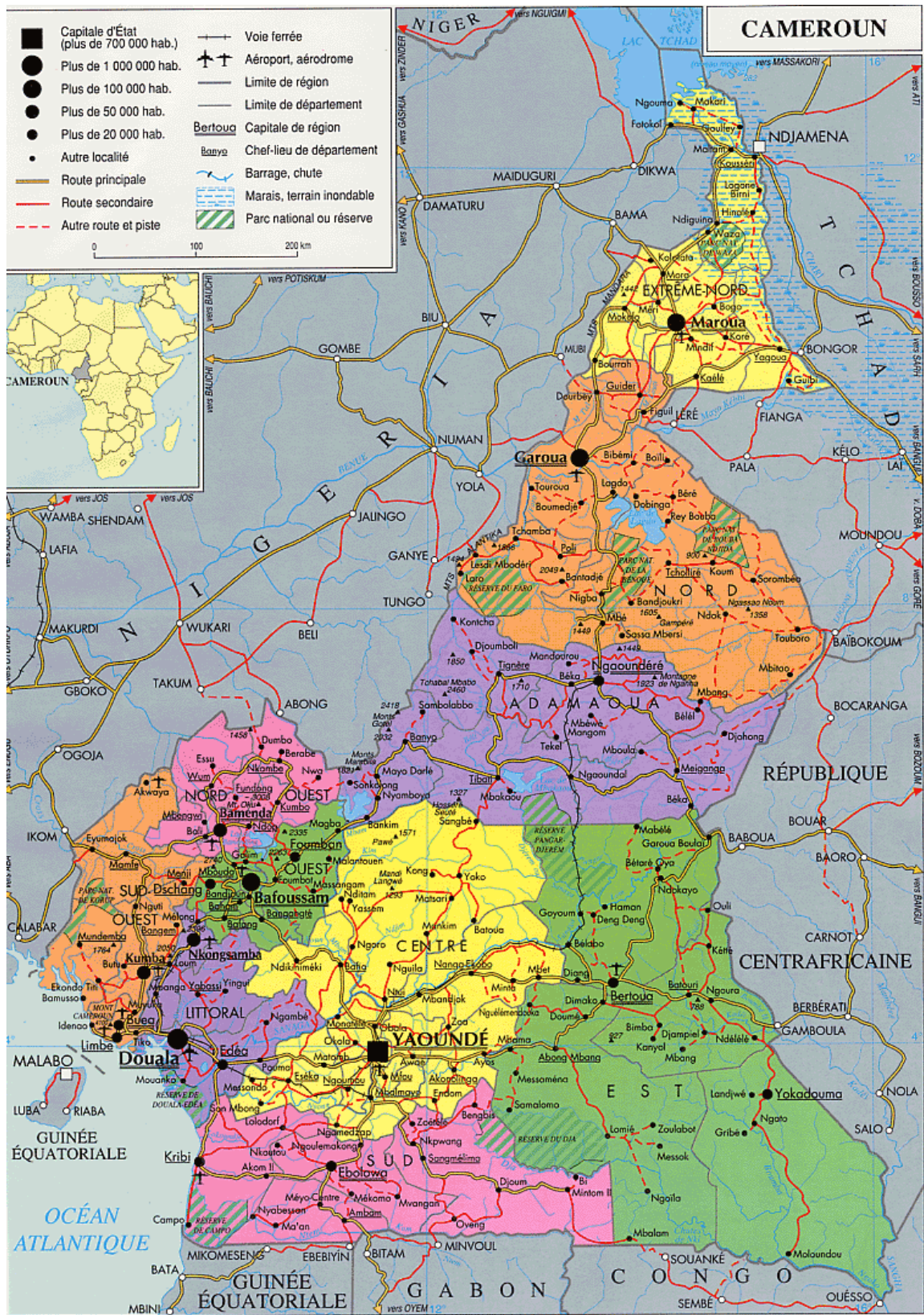


Cameroon's Contribution to the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF)

4-8 November, Cairo, Egypt



*All Starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable
Cities and Communities*





**His Excellency Paul BIYA,
President of the Republic of Cameroon**

"I am persuaded that all together, as Cameroonians, in towns and villages, home and abroad, without any discrimination of any kind, we can, better still, we must relentlessly transform Cameroon into an emerging country, i.e. a country that creates and equitably shares wealth, a country which offers equal opportunities for common prosperity, a country with strong and sustained economic growth, a country with strengthened food security; in a nutshell a country for the happiness of each and everyone".

An excerpt of the sworn in speech of the Head of State, H.E. Paul BIYA, at the National Assembly, on 3 November 2011.



Chief Dr. Joseph DION NGUTE
Prime Minister, Head of Government



Queen Mother Celestine KETCHA COURTES
Minister of Housing and Urban Development



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Table of Contents

Preface	11
Cameroon's National Voluntary Review Report on the Implementation of SDG11 and the New Agenda for Cities	13
Images of the modernization of Cameroonian Cities	31
Dialogue 1: "Housing our future".....	37
Chapter 1 An Ambitious Social Housing Policy in Cameroon	39
Chapter 2	
The Contribution of Cameroon Real Estate Corporation (SIC) to the Housing Policy	45
Dialogue 2 cities and the climate crisis.....	53
Chapter 3 Cities and the Climate Crisis	55
Dialogue 3 "stronger together".....	63
Chapter 4 Cameroon: Enhancing the Tourist Potential in Building Cities	64
Chapter 5	
Nation Hygiene, Sanitation and Embellishment Campaign in Cameroonian Cities	69
Dialogue 5: "Making People the Priority in the Digital Era"	77
Chapter 6	
Contribution of Digital Technologies and Innovation: "Smart Cities"	79
Dialogue 6 "loss of housing"	83
Chapter 7 Loss of Housing in the Cameroonian Context	85

Preface

Queen Mother Celestine KETCHA COURTES **Minister of Housing and Urban Development**



Following the 11th Session of the World Urban Forum held from 26 to 30 June 2022 in Katowice, Poland, in which Cameroon took an active part, Cameroon is delighted to join the urban players once again from 04 to 08 November 2024 in Cairo, Egypt, for this major international event dedicated to one of the greatest challenges of our time: accelerated urbanisation in a context of climate change.

The theme of this 12th World Urban Forum “It all starts at

home: Local Action for Sustainable Cities and Communities” is in line with Cameroon’s vision of the city, promoted by the Head of State, H.E. Paul BIYA. Indeed, on the one hand, the national urban development policy is aligned with the imperative of localising sustainable development goals, in particular SDG 11, which calls for the construction of sustainable, resilient, safe and inclusive cities and communities. On the other hand, urban strategies are implemented on the basis of decentralisation, which is enshrined in the Constitution and made effective by a large-scale transfer of powers to Regional and Local Authorities (RLAs) in terms of planning and urban development, places communities and individuals at the heart of actions to co-construct their cities.

Urban modernisation is one of the main thrusts of the National Development Strategy (NDS30) for Cameroon’s emergence by Cameroon by 2035. The aim is to develop cities that are connected, inclusive and resilient, in particular through compliance with urban planning tools, and promoting social housing programmes throughout the country. In a context where like other African countries, Cameroon faces a significant deficit of two and a half million housing units.

To this end, the Government, through its secular arm, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, has improved the regulatory framework for housing, providing

the country with a legal arsenal for real estate development. On an operational level, several programmes are underway, including the Government's programme to build 10,000 social housing units and to develop 50,000 building plots. The Government is also emphasising the participation of the private sector in the production of housing. To this end, several national and international firms are working on real estate projects. An approach based on partnership between the State and socio-professional associations, with the support of the banks, is being the "One Moto-Taxi Driver, One Decent and Affordable Home" project, launched this year in the city of Douala.

In short, accelerated urban growth in Cameroon, both demographic and spatial, is not seen as an accumulation of seemingly insurmountable challenges. It is presented as an opportunity for economic growth, the development of a green economy, and the promise of innovation through digital technologies, drawing on the creativity of young people, as the theme of this year's World Habitat Day, "Engaging Youths to Create a better Urban Future".

It is therefore against this backdrop (vision and actions in terms of urban modernisation) that Cameroon intends to make a full contribution to deliberations at the 12th World Urban Forum, a key event on the international agenda for assessing and advancing the objectives of urban agendas. Our country wishes to share and promote its vision of a resilient and inclusive urban future that leaves no one behind. This document is part of that objective; it is intended as a contribution to this Forum, through the actions carried out by various urban development stakeholders in Cameroon.

**Cameroon's National Voluntary Review
Report on the Implementation of SDG 11
and the New Agenda for Cities
October 2016 - October 2024**

Opening Statement

In a spirit of global solidarity with the Member States of the United Nations, the President of the Republic of Cameroon, H.E. Mr. Paul BIYA, is committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) and the New Agenda for Cities (Agenda 2036), taking into account the orientations of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

To translate its commitments into action, Cameroon adopted its National Development Strategy (SND30) in 2020. Aligned with the SDGs, this strategic instrument reflects the Head of State's firm determination to create a political and institutional environment, as well as a legislative and regulatory framework, that is conducive to the localization of the SDGs by cities and communities. This vision is in line with the main theme of the 12th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF), which Africa is hosting 20 years after its creation. This second Cameroon's National Voluntary Review Report on the Implementation of SDG11 and the New Agenda For Cities is part of this framework.

Indeed, the 12th WUF is an ideal opportunity for the Government not only to reaffirm, through this Report, Cameroon's commitment to working to improve people's living standards, but also to highlight local initiatives and decisive actions aimed at reducing poverty and inequality, and combating climate change and its induced effects. With this in mind, the Government, in collaboration with all stakeholders and through multilateralism, is working to identify solutions to the challenges likely to hinder the harmonious progress towards Sustainable Development and the modernization of cities.

In keeping with the logic of the previous Report, drawn up in 2022 in preparation for the UN General Assembly, this second edition is the fruit of the participation of all urban players (public, private, civil society, technical and financial partners). This voluntary review exercise, encouraged by UN-Habitat, shows that they are gradually integrating progress indicators for sustainable urban development and habitat into their programmes and projects. On behalf of the Government, I would like to express my profound gratitude to all those who have contributed in this way.

Cameroon's achievements over the past eight years are significant, in institutional, political, strategic and infrastructural terms. In particular, between 2022 and 2024, the Government has been making progress in promoting a healthy environment, decent and sustainable housing, gender in all areas of life, entrepreneurship and youth leadership, and local best practices in all areas of sustainable development. However, more needs to be done in terms of urban planning and housing to make our cities

economically attractive and competitive, and at the same time resilient in the face of climate change. With this in mind, Cameroon is focusing on inclusive urban planning, with a view to the structural transformation of cities based on synergy between stakeholders.

Over the next six years, the world will take stock of the SDGs. Cameroon is availing this opportunity to reach out to its partners, including UN-Habitat, to provide stronger support in localizing the SDGs in cities, Councils and Regions. This perspective is part of a national model for promoting peace and prosperity specific to our country, and backed by the requirements of sustainable conflict and disaster management, to help Cameroon contribute to a greener, more peaceful planet.

With a view to supporting UN-Habitat's efforts in the Central African sub-region, Cameroon, Africa in miniature, intends to launch the First Conference of Ministers in charge of Urban Planning to rethink, harmonize and make more applicable our instruments for concerted spatial planning and coordinated implementation of sustainable urbanization and the development of decent, affordable housing. Such an approach will not only support synergy between public and private institutions, including civil society, but will also help determine the measures to be taken to promote large-scale processing of the local materials needed to build our cities. In this way, we will be able to better connect (1) urbanization and industrialization in the regional hubs identified by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and (2) sub-regional integration through urban development guided by the Regional Development Master Plan of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC).

With regard to Cameroon's position on the WUF 12:

- We reaffirm Cameroon's commitment to the implementation of the SDGs and Urban Agendas, to build sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities that leave no one, and no territory behind.
- We call on international solidarity to financially support our efforts to localize the urban SDGs. To this end, Cameroon encourages innovative partnerships, including green trust funds and facilities, for the financing of rapid and poorly controlled urbanization, the provision of modern urban mobility infrastructures and affordable housing for low-income households, as well as the strengthening of the data production system for the monitoring and evaluation of indicators;
- The Government looks forward to cooperating regionally to facilitate ownership and further implementation of the New Cities Programme in Central African communities, in collaboration with other Member States.

Executive Summary

The signatory countries of the 2063 Agenda, "The Africa we want", of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030 (Agenda 2030) and the New Programme for Cities (Agenda 2036) adopted in October 2016 in Quito (Ecuador), within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Urban Development (HABITAT III), committed to the implementation of these instruments. In doing so, these states reaffirmed the global commitment to promote sustainable urbanization, which, while the global urbanization rate will reach 68.4% in 2050, according to the United Nations, and cities are now the main actors of climate change, according to IPCC data, is critical to achieving the climate goals formulated in the Paris Agreement.

For the monitoring of 2036 Agenda implementation, UN-Habitat recommends the preparation of voluntary national reports on progress achieved. After the publication of its first National Voluntary Review Report in 2022, within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly, Cameroon avails the opportunity of the 12th World Urban Forum to produce this second Report.

The preparation methodology consisted of three main phases:

- The documentary review and the collection of data relating to the state of implementation of SDG11 and Agenda 2036 from stakeholders;
- The drafting and production of the Report following a multi-stakeholder workshop;
- Report proofreading and validation.

The contextual analysis of the implementation of SDG11 and Agenda 2036 will focus on the following points:

1. Social Inclusion and Poverty Eradication

With regard to poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities in urban areas, the country has set itself the objective to reduce the poverty rate from 37.1% in 2014 to 30.8% in 2030 and increase the social coverage rate from 22% in 2018 to 50% in 2030. However, the poverty rate dropped from 35.9% in 2016 to 33.0% in 2020 and then from 38.6% in 2021 to 37.7% in 2022. The unemployment rate estimated at 2.6% in urban areas in 2016 was 6.1% in 2021 and higher in the 14-34 age group (10.4%). Increasing the supply of decent jobs is one of the challenges to be met to reversing the trend of unemployment and underemployment. To combat underemployment, the government has opted for a migration of labour from the informal to the formal sector. The development of new sustainable consumption and

production patterns is seen as an opportunity to generate the potential for the creation of new jobs and the transformation of existing ones.

Concerning social inclusion, the gross school enrolment rate grew slowly until 2015, before declining from 2016 onwards. However, there has been an upward trend since 2018 and a slight fall between 2020 and 2021. From 2021 to 2023, the upward trend was maintained despite the humanitarian and socio-political crises facing Cameroon. In addition to the National Gender Policy (2010-2020), which aims to promote and integrate gender and/or gender equality in all development sectors, existing legal instruments for the protection of women have been strengthened through: the National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence (2017-2020) and the country gender profile (2020); the National Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1325 and related resolutions on women, peace and security (2023-2020).

As far as public spaces are concerned, the deficit is gradually being absorbed by New Urban Programmes, such as the Urban C2D "Regional Capitals", one of the major components of which is the construction of green spaces and leisure areas.

Between 2022 and 2024, just over CFAF 275 billion of public funding was used for the maintenance, rehabilitation and construction of urban roads in the 10 regions of the country through MINHDU. Thanks to funding from the French Development Agency (AFD), the C2D Urban Programme "Regional Capitals", four Regional capital cities have benefited from more than 51 km of urban roads in Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) and paving stones, 26 km of urban roads and drains. Major works are underway in the cities of Yaoundé, Douala, Ngaoundéré and Batouri as part of the Inclusive and Resilient Cities Development Project (DDVIR) financed by the World Bank. The Yaounde-Nsimalen Motorway urban section is operational; work on the urban section was launched in early 2024. Bypass roads projects are planned with the support of partners, to relieve congestion in urban centres, connect certain villages to the city, improve traffic flow and increase the economy in the metropolises.

The challenges to be met in order to eradicate poverty include achieving a genuine structural transformation of the country's economy and making inclusive social development more visible in rural and urban areas. The State intends to continue promoting employment and socio-economic integration, as well as strengthening the framework for the promotion and protection of the rights of women, youths and children.

2. Access to Adequate Housing

Concerning adequate and affordable housing, a National Housing Policy (NHP) was developed in 2018. The deficit is estimated at more than 2 million units in 2023. The proportion of households living in decent housing is estimated at 40.3% (*source: NDS30, page 166*). Difficulties related to access to land by the State, the high cost of real estate expertise and the high cost of materials are some factors that justify the high cost of decent housing in Cameroon. Phase 1 of the Government's programme for the construction of 10,000 social housing units and the development of 50,000 building plots, which is currently being implemented accounts for a total of 2,980 completed units 2082 keys handed to owners.

As regards ownership tenure, the ECAM 5 survey carried out in 2022 by the NIS revealed that 56.8% of households own their homes, compared to 54.9% in 2016. This share is higher among poor households (74.0%) than among non-poor households (50.6%). It is higher in rural areas (1.1%) than in urban areas (0.9%). A total of 16,465 land titles were issued between 2010 and 2022.

Concerning access to funding for sustainable housing, CFC offers attractive packages to give real estate developers and low-income populations access to credit. Between 2016 and 2024, the CFC, FEICOM and the UCCC implemented the Municipal City Construction Programme with a view to strengthening the supply of decent housing in secondary towns. Phase 1 of this programme has achieved an overall rate of 74%, with seven municipal housing estates handed over and 157 units completed.

The 'One Commercial Bike Rider - One house' project being implemented in collaboration with UN- HABITAT aims to promote the social and economic inclusion of commercial bike riders.

Through the Public Investment Budget (PIB), MINH DU has built around 10,280 km of roads to improve mobility and connectivity, together with sanitation facilities in 10 precarious neighbourhoods in Yaoundé and Douala. since 2015, MAETUR signed an agreement with MINH DU for the restructuring/renovation of precarious neighborhoods. In terms of good local practices, the councils of Poli, Faro and Bibemi and Yagoua have areas of 25 ha, 25 ha, 10 ha and 10 ha, respectively, set aside for the resettlement of evicted populations.

In perspective, the policy provides for the creation of town planning agencies, the National Council for Urban Planning, Housing and Land Management (CNUHAT) and a Special Fund for Social Housing to mobilise resources. A new urban project called "Projet des Villes et Gestion Foncière Durable" (Cities and Sustainable Land Management) is currently being developed. This project aims to restructure under-equipped neighborhoods.

3. Access to Basic Urban Services

The country is aiming for an 85% urban services coverage rate by 2032. ECAM 5 shows that, compared with 2014, there has been a marked improvement in the population's access to an improved source of potable water. Four out of five people have access in all seasons, in urban areas (92.5% in the dry season, 91.6% in the rainy season) and in rural areas (69.6% in the dry season, 68.0% in the rainy season). More than 31,000 boreholes have been built nationwide.

To improve water and power supply, the NDS30 recommends an installed capacity of 5,000 MW by 2030. To achieve this, several programmes are being implemented. Dams have been built as part of the vast **national programme to build hydroelectric dams and thermal power stations**. The share of renewable energies in total energy consumption has risen from 0.8% in 2020 to 3.1% in 2023. The use of solar energy has increased by 2.5% in relative terms. Projects to build solar small power stations, wind farms, an oil pipeline and hydroelectric schemes are underway. A 2023-2027 Electricity Sector Recovery Plan has been drawn up and is in need of funding. Other parallel projects are being carried out by the private sector through funding from donors who are exploring alternative forms of energy (solar, wind) to make up for the deficit.

In terms of sanitation, ECAM 5 reveals that by 2022, 13% of the population (18% in urban areas versus 7% in rural areas) or 63% of people (versus 14.9% in 2014 and 28.8% in 2017) will be living in households using sanitation services managed in complete safety.

In terms of household waste management, the total volume of waste produced in cities is around 1,421,871 tonnes per year. The average tonnage of waste in Douala and Yaoundé collected daily in each city in 2021 is 3,359 m³.

In general, the poorly structured pre-collection system means that the service offered to the population is inadequate, despite the resources deployed by the State and Municipalities. A "Clean Cities" competition was launched 2019 by the Government through MINHDU to localise hygiene and sanitation actions in the councils.

Given the importance attached to waste management at the highest level of Government, the regulatory, institutional, organizational and financial framework for waste management is undergoing significant change. MINHDU is leading the drafting of a law on urban cleanliness, as well as the maturation of a vast programme to build waste management infrastructures in the two major cities of Yaoundé and Douala. It is in search of sustainable waste management models, which it contextualizes and implements in Councils using a participatory approach. The Rwandan hygiene and

sanitation model is currently being implemented in 04 pilot councils in Yaoundé and Douala. In addition to the forthcoming drafting of a policy and strategy to combat insalubrity, other reforms are envisaged and require funding for implementation.

The issue of rainwater drainage is crucial. The problem of flooding is acute in certain regions of the country. In general, drainage conditions are difficult, particularly in under-equipped areas. To reduce the frequency and severity of flooding, drains are built annually by MINHDU in towns. The PADY 2 project enabled the construction of 18 km of drains in the city of Yaoundé. The complementary phase of this project (PCADY) brings the necessary adjustments to increase the expected results in terms of significant flood reduction, treatment and improved waste management in the city of Yaoundé. The Douala Rain Drainage Project has enabled the construction of 33 km of concrete canals and the opening of outlets.

For access to a safe and efficient public transport system, the predominance of cabs or private vehicles as the main mode of travel leads to congestion on existing routes and environmental pollution.

Cameroon has a Waterways Operation Development Master Plan. The urban development programme prescribed in the NDS30 aims at improving urban mobility. A national programme covering the 2022-2032 period has been drawn up by the Government, enabling a gradual increase in the level of service of the existing network, while eliminating the current deficit.

Cameroon is one of the countries elected for the "Mobilise Your City" project, which reconciles mobility and climate protection. Several projects are currently underway, including the Green Mobility Project in Yaoundé (MoVe Yaoundé), financed by the European Union as part of the "Green, Resilient and Inclusive Cities" programme. The "Yaoundé Cœur de Ville" project, financed by AFD, is due to get underway shortly. It should be noted that these two projects pave the way for the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) in Yaoundé. The Yaoundé Bypass Road project is in the fund-raising phase, with significant support from the European Union. An air quality monitoring project was launched in 2020, with FASEP funding, to curb pollution linked to automobile traffic.

Transport modes are diversified but need to be better structured and complemented by more efficient and ecological systems. The NDS30 on this subject provides for: the promotion and development of mass public transport in major urban areas (particularly in Douala and Yaoundé); reforming the legal and regulatory frameworks for waste management, centred on liberalising the market and penalising insalubrity.

4. Inclusive Urban Economy

With regard to productive employment, the economic fabric is marked by the predominance of Very Small Enterprises (VSEs) and Small Enterprises (SEs), which represent more than 98.5% of all enterprises. The Government provides support to them to promote a supportive, fair and responsible environment for business and innovation. Emphasis is placed on the development of technical and entrepreneurial skills to improve competitiveness in a modern urban economy.

The main challenge is to develop other incentives for business development and youth employment. Measures are underway for simplifying procedures to reduce the time taken to issue a land title, improving the business climate in favor of investment, migrating workers from the informal sector to Very Small Enterprises (VSEs) in the formal sector and encouraging VSEs to turn into SMEs/SMIs and creating jobs and growing the economy.

In the real estate sector, the number of approved real estate developers is growing every year. They are currently 288 in 2024. Since 2012, MINHDU has undertaken to provide support to these actors for the implementation of social housing programmes at affordable costs, in order to make the sector attractive. The main obstacle to this promising initiative remains funding. Reflections are underway for more innovative and sustainable approaches.

As for the informal economy, it has gained ground over the past two decades. The non-agricultural informal sector is the largest provider of employment. The share of informal employment in this sector was 72.2% in 2016 and 80.2% in 2021. Women account for the highest proportion (76.1%) compared to men (69.1%) in 2016, idem in 2021 with 86.2% compared to 75.8% for women and men, respectively (EESI 3, 2021).

In terms of diversification of the urban economy and the promotion of cultural and creative industries, Law N0. 2020/011 of 20 July 2020 governing artistic and cultural associations in Cameroon aims to structure the arts and culture sector into a trade, and to encourage cultural and creative industries.

For the development of technical and entrepreneurial skills, the Government has put in place capacity-building tools for the benefit of young people in order to create job opportunities. The Youth Connect Cameroon (YCC) Programme has enabled 6,663 young people to access employment through the support of 449 business projects. At least 1,043 direct jobs and about 2,500 indirect jobs were created. The Business Incubator Development Programme has a total of 397 young people in "junior-enterprises". Twelve (12) Youth Empowerment Centres (CIJ) built by the MINHDU are

functional in seven Regions of Cameroon and train young people in small trades in the urban sector. Through the National Employment Fund (FNE), 307,683 young people were integrated between 2016 and 2023, including 21,719 young people in 2023.

5. Resilience, Mitigation and Adaptation of Cities

Cameroonian cities are characterized by their sprawl, raising significant problems in terms of land tenure and access to services. To curb this phenomenon, urban planning and building rules are prescribed to encourage the densification of urban areas and the planning of green spaces.

The phenomenon of global warming is perceptible through strong variations in temperature and seasons, and extreme weather phenomena. There has been an increase in the occurrence of disasters of anthropogenic origin (fires, building collapses, etc.) or natural (floods, landslides, mudslides, etc.) accentuated by urban disorder, in particular non-compliance with urban planning and construction rules.

With regard to the development of strategies to reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters, Urban Planning Documents ban constructing in risk-prone areas.

With the support of UN-Habitat, for instance, support for strengthening recovery and resilience efforts through the "Peace and Development Humanitarian NEXUS", under implementation aims to improve the living conditions and the livelihoods of vulnerable populations residing in certain regions affected by multiple crisis. Community Participation in local governance programme aims to prevent and effectively resolve conflicts. Multi-stakeholder governance for climate action is also explored. A national meteorological master plan is being developed. Multi-hazard maps have been drawn up by some councils.

A detailed statistical and geographical database on all pockets of precarious housing, as well as on areas at risk and those known as "non-buildable" is being developed through the MINHDU-BUCREP convention, in order to be able to deal sustainably with the problem of the occupation of risk-prone areas under three strategic axes, the complementarity of which guarantees the prevention approach: the liberation of risky areas; the resettlement of the populations occupying them; the developments to be carried out in these vacated areas in order to prevent their reoccupation (reallocation as recreational areas, green zones, etc.).

Cameroon has taken measures to deal with pollution, particularly air pollution. Standards have been prescribed to reduce air pollution in the construction and management of buildings, industrial and craft facilities and vehicles. Air quality measurement stations were installed between 2022 and 2024. Cameroon has a

number of environmental and pollution standards with about 20 standards made mandatory.

The Government is working to strengthen the capacities of institutions responsible for climate monitoring and to operationalize the mechanism for monitoring, preventing and responding to the effects of climate change; and to step up actions to combat desertification, land degradation and pollution. It has developed a National Disaster Prevention and Management Programme (PNPGC). A draft law on air pollution and a Strategy for Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in Urban Areas are currently being drafted. MINH DU works for the rehabilitation of degraded or under-equipped urban areas, in order to attract residents and businesses. Moreover, through the "Green City" programme, funds are made available to RLAs for the development of green spaces in cities.

6. Environmental Management

In a logic of rational management of its natural resources and the recovery of the waste produced, Cameroon carried out control missions in 2022 that led to the seizure of a large volume of non-compliant plastics and the recovery of the corresponding fines.

The polluter-pays principle implemented during inspections of establishments has already enabled some companies to align themselves with industrial depollution, especially in the hydrocarbons sector through environmental upgrading.

The "Safer Cities" Programme, carried out with the support of UN-Habitat, has trained young people in selected councils in the assembly of solar kits, in order to contribute to public lighting and the prevention of insecurity and urban crime.

Activities relating to the recycling of plastic waste are being set up, supported by private initiatives and encouraged by certain councils.

7. Urban Governance

With regard to **decentralization**, the law on the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities sets the framework. The financing of RLAs is done through transferred fiscal resources, Government grants and own resources. The development and implementation between 2022 and 2024, of the Recovery, Reconstruction and Development Plan (PRRD) for the North-West and South-West Regions in crisis is underway. FEICOM Awards are given to councils that stand out for their good practices in the fields of urban planning and housing. Apart from FEICOM, RLAs also receive direct funding from several public bodies and national programmes. Several projects and programmes are used to support decentralization (PNFMV, PDVIR, C2D). In addition, the Livestock and Fish Farming Value Chain Development Project (PD-CVEP),

the objective of which is to contribute in an inclusive manner to the improvement of food and nutrition security; the Rural Development Support Project (PADER) in small materials and processing and collection equipment; programmes to support the decentralization and promotion of rural localities (GRASSFIELD, RUMPI, PARFAR, PADC projects) in addition to rural development projects financed by the EU, which contribute mainly to the construction of rural infrastructures, support for the preparation of local development plans, the establishment of local governance structures and the promotion of income-generating activities for the benefit of vulnerable groups (particularly women and youths), incentives for private investment in agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production, agri-food processing and environmental activities.

For participatory approaches in urban policy and planning, the law governing urban planning prescribes participation by stipulating that all urban actors are involved in the preparation of urban planning documents and the implementation of urban projects. This participation takes place through public meetings, residents' committees and other neighborhood associations. City contract and plan contract are tools developed to strengthen the partnership around the councils with a view to harmonious implementation of projects.

With regard to women's participation in all areas and at all levels of decision-making, the National Action Plan to Support Women's Participation in Decision-making was developed in 2018. In 2022, out of 43,428 key positions, 11,331 (26.34 %) were held by women. Within the central and decentralized government, there are seven female heads of ministerial departments (22%), a female Senior Divisional Officer (SDO) and 28 female Divisional Officer (DOs). The enforcement of the provisions of the Electoral Code of 19 April 2012 has led to an increase in the number of women in local authorities and in Parliament, amounting to: 31 female mayors (8.6%) between 2013 and 2018; 39 female mayors (10.83%) and 327 (34.13%) female Deputy Mayors; 26 female Senators and 61 female deputies for the 2020-2025 period. Out of 900 Regional Counselors, there are 210 women (23.33%) (FEICOM, 2024). In political parties, a total of 22 women are chairs of political parties (MINAT, 2024).

The Government's national strategy provides for strengthening inter-municipal collaboration, rapidly reforming FEICOM and significantly increasing the resources transferred to RLAs.

8. Urban Planning

With regard to the implementation of territorial development policies, the country has a National Development Strategy (NDS30) drawn up in 2020. A National Urban Policy is being implemented with the support of UN-Habitat. A National Spatial Development

Plan has been drawn up. Some Regional Sustainable Land Planning and Development Scheme (SNADDT) are complete;

Urban planning has been made systematic by the State to organize space, promote mix land use, consider culture, the delimitation of areas to be occupied by function, natural or risk areas, land reserves, priority projects to be carried out by different actors and the rules of occupation of urban spaces. Between 2022 and 2024, the number of urban planning documents has increased (from 33% to 46.8%) and covers certain cities in the country's 10 Regions. These documents are drawn up using a participatory approach and various funding sources, including MINH DU PIB, the World Bank, the ADB, MINEPAT and FEICOM.

The Government intends to continue and finalize the elaboration of the Regional Land Development Plans; to provide all municipalities with quality urban planning tools at the initiative of the councils; to promote the development of secondary towns in the regional urban framework to help them emerge as regional poles of balance.

9. Implementation of Planned Urban Extensions and Filling, Urban Renovation and Regeneration of Urban Areas

With regard to improving urban planning and management capabilities, the State has drawn up programmes and is taking steps to plan urban extensions and organised urban regeneration. In this regard, between 2016 and 2024, the PNFMV trained 2285 municipal staff in 93% of cities in urban planning.

The Nexus project, carried out with the support of UN-Habitat, has made it possible to draw up land-use plans, in collaboration with the mayors and their populations.

The estate protection and development programme has created space for state-owned real estates, social housing and agro-industry. the Programme for the Constitution of Land Reserves for the Development of Projects of General Interest has enabled MINDCAF to secure and make available secured spaces for the implementation of major projects by the State and other actors. A high-level MINH DU-MINDCAF inter-ministerial consultation platform is currently at work to promote a joint strategy of actions to accelerate access to land for the implementation of urban projects.

With regard to the means of implementation, the State and the Councils are supported in the implementation of the New Cities Programme by technical and financial partners, including: FADDEL, AFD, COMONWEALTH, EU, GIZ, the United Nations. Institutional support for partner cities takes the form of capacity-building for local project owners.

Implementation support tools include, for example, the development of a programming and management tool for roads and utilities in Yaoundé and Douala; the development of a master plan for markets and commercial centres in Yaoundé and Ngaoundéré;

and the signing of several city development contracts and implementation agreements by MINHDU and its partners.

Matching strategic planning with implementation on the ground remains a challenge for the Government, which intends to: continue building the capacity of human resources in BETs and RLAs, in order to improve the quality of planning documents and their effective implementation.

10. Capacity Development

In Cameroon, intercommunality is a reality. About a hundred RLAs participate in decentralised cooperation programmes through networks, unions with local and European councils. The Cameroonian Mayors Network for Social and Solidarity Economy contributes since 2016 to empowerment through the promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy (SSE). Between 2017 and 2023, a large number of Councils are members of this Network. In 2024, unions of councils were created for capacity building by FEICOM and UCCC.

With regard to the commitment of local government associations as promoters and providers of capacity building, the budget of the UCCC represents 1% of the administrative accounts of each municipality and of the council unions and amounts to 1,733,501,392 billion CFAF in 2024.

As for the implementation of capacity-building programmes in planning and financial management, UN-Habitat has trained around a hundred people in the use of financing and land revenue tools. The PDVIR, the C2D programme and the PNFMV strengthen the capacities of municipal services to improve city management, by providing municipalities with municipal management tools, including maintenance management, revenue collection, training and technical assistance.

11. Information and Innovation Technologies

Given these developments in the field of telecommunications networks, the notion of "Smart Cities" is now being explored in Cameroon. In collaboration with UN-Habitat, a National Plan for Smart Cities is currently being drawn up by MINHDU.

With regard to the implementation of digital tools, a Geographic Information System on the urban environment has been in place at MINHDU since 2018. It will be updated by means of an information feedback system, initially piloted in 17 cities hosting the operations, and then rolled out across the country's 10 regions and 58 divisions by 2025. The system will be anchored in the councils and devolved departments of the central administration, to monitor urban development and improve the planning and programming of investments in cities.

A study of MINH DU and MINTP GIS systems has led to the harmonization of nomenclatures for roads and urban roads, with a view to harmonizing data collection tools across the entire network. A working framework has been set up between MINH DU, MINTP and utilities providers (ENEO, CAMWATER, CAMTEL). To this end, a protocol is in the process of being signed to provide a framework for information exchanges, anticipate urban network extensions and road construction/rehabilitation/maintenance, and coordinate road-related actions through regular exchanges of geospatial information.

A national observatory on urban and rural housing is being set up through the PDVIR. The observatory strategy was approved in 2024, and field trips to test the tool are planned. An urban platform and a pilot multi-purpose cadaster are being developed with EU funding. These tools should provide added value in terms of interactive exchanges between urban players to improve the coordination of interventions, particularly in terms of urban road construction and maintenance.

12. Monitoring and Review of Agenda 2036

Cameroon has drawn up Law N0. 2020/010 of 20 July 2020 governing statistical activity which reinforces the decentralization of statistics production. MINH DU signed an agreement with the NIS, on the one hand, and BUCREP on the other hand, for technical support in the production of performance indicators and NPV, and with the NIC for spatial data to support the voluntary review reports.

Reporting is organized around a team that includes government departments, the private sector and the public civil society that produces the indicators. The challenges are as follows:

- to produce statistical and geospatial data at a regular frequency;
- to encourage RLAs to set up their Geographic Information Systems, to produce reference data (statistical and geospatial) on human settlements and to ensure regular updating of information.

Collaboration frameworks are being designed with administrations that invest in urban areas, in order to pool resources for data production. This approach, initiated by MINH DU, also aims to increase the volume of statistical and geospatial information produced, thereby improving territorial urban planning, the coordination of actions and national reporting on SDG 11 and the NCP, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the NDS30.

The plan is to provide more support to local authorities to ensure that they take account of SDG11 and Agenda 2036 in the implementation of their projects, and to produce the relevant information on a regular basis.

Key Recommendations

The following recommendations will help to improve progress in the implementation of SDG 11 and the New Agenda for Cities, measured through the localization of the SDGs in Cameroon's cities, Councils and Regions.

1. Focus on decent and affordable housing, an inclusive urban economy and fighting climate change and its induced effects, through the effective implementation of quality urban planning documents, and available policy instruments and strategies;

2. Co-construct cities by strengthening synergy between players (the State, RLAs, private organizations and civil society), with a view to developing innovative partnerships for the production of affordable and decent housing using local materials, the gradual absorption of precarious neighborhoods, the improvement of urban mobility, the use of renewable energies, the collection and transformation of waste into wealth, the development of income-generating activities in urban areas, the development of safe meeting spaces and the rigorous management of land use;

3. Launch the first Conference of Central African Ministers in charge of Urban Planning to harmonize instruments for concerted spatial planning and coordinated implementation of urban modernization programmes across the sub region, integrating issues such as regional transport and synergies for housing finance.

4. Mobilize resources for the production of the statistics necessary for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs.

Images of the modernization of Cameroonian Cities

An Integrated Urban Development Approach: Development of Green Spaces, Socio-Collective Leisure and Sports Infrastructures





2. Sustainable Mobility at the Heart of Urban Modernization



3. New Approaches to Reduce the Deficit in Decent, Affordable Housing: Partnership Between the State, RLAs, Banks and Socio-Professional Associations to Build Housing. "One Commercial Bike Rider - One Affordable Decent Housing" project in Douala.



3. Government Program to Build 10,000 Social Housing Units and Develop 40,000 Building Plots: a Reality for over a Thousand Families.



National Housing Week and the "Clean Cities" Competition: Cameroonian Best Practices for Co-building Healthy, Resilient and Sustainable Cities.





Urban Sanitation as a Disaster Prevention Tool: Towards phase III of the Yaounde City Sanitation Project



Dialogue 1
“Housing our future”

Chapter 1

An Ambitious Social Housing Policy in Cameroon

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU)

Introduction

"The fight to re-establish social justice appears to be the most difficult in view of the multiplicity and diversity of fronts it presents. Apart from education and health, one of the most sensitive fronts is housing". This pertinent link between social justice and housing was made by the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, in the revised version of his book titled "For Community Liberalism". This is why, in order to remedy a situation characterized by an ever-increasing deficit, he prescribed, on 10 February 2018, "the implementation of an ambitious social housing policy". In addition, in the same vein, he prescribed, on 6 November 2018, during his inauguration and installation address, as part of his new seven-year term, the implementation of a "social housing policy worthy of the name".

Indeed, challenges in the housing sector are pressing, in view of the deficit to be filled, which is more than two million housing units, with an increase of at least 100,000 units per year.

This contribution seeks, starting from an inventory, to provide elements of reflection, and concrete orientations suggested by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU), and some of which have first and foremost begun and others are envisaged, to provide concrete responses to the calls of the President of the Republic.

I. Achievements in Cameroon

Several actions have been carried out by the Government through the MINHDU, which is in charge of the housing policy in Cameroon.

Legally, the regulatory framework has been profoundly enriched since 2004, with the adoption of a series of laws and their implementing decrees, relating to: urban planning, Real Estate Development, the sale of buildings to be built, lease-ownership, social housing standards, and co-ownership.

Institutionally, the “SIC, CFC and MAETUR triptyque” is one of Cameroon's specificities in terms of the institutional scheme for the operationalization of the housing policy. This scheme is considered by many African countries, although the need for restructuring arises. In addition to this triptyque, there are other major players created by the State, such as MIPROMALO and LABOGENIE. Broadly speaking, the State has put in place a framework that should allow for a complementary intervention by all the actors, public, semi-public and private, in handling the housing crisis.

Concerning land, efforts have been made by the MINH DU, in consultation with the Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF) and some municipalities, to establish land reserves in nearly thirty localities, including the ten regional capitals. However, the challenge of securing these sites arises, in particular because of the scarcity of financial resources.

Concerning financing, MINH DU's budget allocation for housing, although insufficient, has been steadily increasing for several years. In addition, due to the importance of the needs expressed, the State encourages private initiatives and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).

Concerning taxation, Law N0. 2013/004 of 18 April 2013 establishing incentives for private investment in the Republic of Cameroon, revised in 2017, provides for tax and customs incentives in several areas, including social housing.

Operationally, in 2009, the State launched the Government Programme for the construction of 10,000 social housing units and the development of 50,000 building plots. To date, the 1,520 low-cost housing units of the Sino-Cameroonian programme have been completed and fully occupied; the 600 housing units of the Three-Year Emergency Plan (PLANUT) have also been completed. Their occupation is effective in the towns of Bertoua, Ngaoundéré, Bafoussam and Ebolowa.

Cameroon's housing strategy also relies on the private sector to boost housing production. The sector is already attracting many international firms, such as the Spanish PNHG Group, which is mobilizing on a programme to build 3,060 housing units in the city of Yaoundé. The MINH DU is also experimenting with an approach to housing construction based on partnership between the State and socio-professional categories, with the support of banks. It is with this in mind that the project "One Moto-Taxi Driver, One Decent and Affordable Home" was launched for the construction of 134 decent and affordable houses for commercial bike riders.

Regional and Local Authorities (RLAs) are not left out. For example, the Cities of the Fiftieth Anniversaries in Douala and Yaoundé, which are building 3,000 housing

units, are under construction, with 500 high-quality housing units in Yaoundé and Douala under a pilot phase.

In addition to these programmes and projects, also worth-noting is the implementation of numerous operations to improve the living environment of the population, positively impacting urban mobility, as well as hygiene and sanitation conditions. With this in mind, operations aimed at restructuring precarious neighbourhoods and improving people's access to basic social services have been carried out, in particular under the PDVIR and the C2D, in several cities; and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) implemented in three cities (Yaoundé, Kribi and Bamenda).

Concerning training, since 2015, a National Programme for Training in Urban Trades (PNFMV) has been set up, which makes it possible to strengthen the capacities of State and council staff in urban trades.

Concerning industrialization, the State has granted licenses to private operators for the construction of new cement plants in Yaoundé and Douala, and other factories specializing in the production and processing of construction materials.

II. Prospects

The major challenge here is to provide decent and accessible housing to all segments of the population, especially the poorest; and to support all actors, in particular RLAs and the private sector to carry out housing operations of all levels and by extension, create wealth and alleviate poverty. It is a question of aligning Cameroon with the objectives of the Urban Agenda, which invites us to raise the issue of housing to the rank of priorities such as health, education or security, and to implement inclusive and sustainable housing programmes, which leave no one behind, in both urban and rural areas.

However, to truly boost and sustain the supply of suitable housing of all standards, it is necessary to adopt a new vision, better still, a new paradigm, in accordance with the prescriptions of the Head of State.

Legally,

- The acceleration of land tenure reform, in particular through the simplification of expropriation procedures for public utility and the granting of easy access to land to real estate developers;
- The finalization of the reforms undertaken at MINH DU, relating in particular to the development of a housing and construction code and a law on social housing.

Institutionally,

- The acceleration of the restructuring of the SIC, MAETUR and CFC triptyque, the clearance of the State's debt concerning them, and the redefinition of new strategic development plans.
- The creation of urban planning and housing agencies alongside councils, possibly within the framework of inter-municipality.

Concerning land,

- The acceleration of the programme for the constitution and securing of land reserves, through the simplification of procedures and the mobilization of the necessary resources;
- The use of joint development with communities' holders of genuine title deeds;
- Greater involvement of MAETUR, as a land expert and institutional developer, in the constitution and the management of land reserves.

Financially,

- The establishment of a special fund dedicated to the financing of social housing, correlated with a secondary mortgage market. This mechanism would complement the CFC, by offering a wider spectrum of financial resource mobilization at both national and international levels, and by providing appropriate solutions to the thorny issue of security and guarantee for external loans, as well as those to be granted to non-solvent buyers;
- The duplication and generalization of the syndication experience of local commercial banks for the financing of housing programmes and projects;
- The granting of access to credit, particularly to the underprivileged sections of the population, and the reduction of bank interest rates, through interest rate subsidy mechanisms; a role that could be assigned to the Special Fund for the Financing of Social Housing.

Concerning taxation,

- The expansion of the provisions in the 2013 and 2017 laws relating to private investment, programmes and national public and private actors implementing social housing programmes;
- The implementation of a specific and dedicated tax system for social housing programmes throughout their cycle; particularly in the context of the industrial production of building materials and the reduction of their costs, such as that of cement.

Operationally,

- The sustained and increased use of PPPs, which have significant benefits in terms of technology transfer, mobilization of financial resources, as well as wealth and job creation;
- The implementation of an integrated programme for the construction of at least 300,000 housing units of all standards in about sixty industrial, university, border cities, with high demographic, economic or agricultural potential. This integrated programme should involve all stakeholders: the public sector through the SIC, MAETUR, MIPROMALO, CFC quartet; the councils; the private sector; mutual and cooperative housing societies. It must also offer several modes of occupation or acquisition (purchase, rental, hire-purchase, etc.) and make use of several types of materials (classic, local, prefabricated, etc.);
- The supervision of self-construction by accelerating the 50,000 building plots component of the Government Programme, and its extension to a more ambitious Programme of at least 500,000 plots throughout the national territory, including: the provision of standard plans, training in construction techniques, the provision of industrial units for the production of local construction materials, the creation of purchasing centers, the organisation of populations into housing cooperatives and loan-granting facilities.

Industrially,

- Support towards the development and industrialization of the production of construction materials, including those produced locally (mud bricks, wooden materials, etc.) through the generalization of the creation of dedicated industrial bases in the 10 regional capitals;

Concerning capacity building,

- Support for the organization and strengthening of the operational and managerial capacities of private actors in real estate development, including housing cooperatives, craftsmen and other professionals in the sub-sector;
- The constitution of a professionals and craftsmen directory in the sector, support for their organization into corporations, and the implementation of dedicated training programmes.

Conclusion

Ultimately, it appears that any ambitious and relevant policy on social housing should be part of a joint and holistic approach, the guarantee for a harmonious synergy of the interventions of all stakeholders.

The measures and actions proposed above, far from being exhaustive, are in line with the vision of the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, in his book "For Community Liberalism", which for any Cameroonian citizen, is "that of every citizen enjoying decent housing, or benefiting from positive conditions for the improvement of their housing".

Chapter 2

The Contribution of Cameroon Real Estate Corporation (SIC) to the Housing Policy

Introduction

Organised since 2001 by the United Nations (UN-HABITAT), the World Urban Forum (WUF) is the main international conference involving all the world's urban players. The aim of this conference is not only to highlight the problems associated with urban expansion and its impact on communities, but also to encourage the sharing of experiences in order to define common guidelines. The 8th edition of the WUF was replaced by the 2016 United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in Quito (Ecuador), at the end of which a "New Urban Agenda" was adopted by all member states, including Cameroon.

The New Urban Agenda is a set of guidelines for strengthening the global commitment to sustainable and integrated urban development. It is a non-binding but decisive agreement that formulates clear and precise requirements for healthy living conditions for all, and is also a major resource for the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 11: *To make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.*

Indeed, the United Nations Development Programme estimates that by 2030, 60-70% of the world's population will live in urban areas. This is why there is an urgent need to establish strategies to deal with this growing phenomenon of urbanization. These strategies, which have been decided at international level, call for major measures to be taken at local level in the first instance.

The WUF12, whose theme is "**It all starts at home: Local Actions for the Sustainable Development of Cities and Communities**", provides an opportunity for each of the representations concerned to take stock of all the initiatives implemented to date at local level for the sustainable development of cities and communities, and to exchange ideas with a view to formulating joint recommendations. Given that the sustainable development of cities as described in SDG 11 requires sustainable, safe, resilient and decent housing, it is appropriate that the sub-theme of "housing our future" should be included in the list of dialogues on understanding local action for sustainable development.

How can access to decent housing for all (housing that meets several criteria, i.e. stability, inclusion, respect for the environment, etc.) contribute to sustainable development and have a positive impact on the future of towns and populations?

I. "Housing our Future"

According to the World Bank, 56% of the world's population, i.e. 4.4 billion people, live in cities, and according to its forecasts in the United Nations World Urbanization Prospects 2018 report, the global urbanization rate will reach 68.4% in 2050 (6.7 billion people). For the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Africa's urban growth rate is the highest in the world, currently at 3.58%, and will remain high at an average of 3.3% over the next 20 years. Among the problems posed by urban growth, which is sometimes uncontrolled, is the global housing crisis, which is felt most acutely in the cities of developing countries, where many households still live in relatively precarious conditions (low purchasing power, unplanned and unhealthy housing, poor access to basic social amenities).

In Cameroon, housing, understood as an economic and social right, is one of the measures provided for by Law N0. 2004/003 of 21 April 2004 governing town planning, which defines town planning as all legislative, regulatory, administrative, technical, economic, social and cultural measures aimed at the harmonious and coherent development of human settlements, by promoting the rational use of land, its enhancement and the improvement of the living environment, as well as economic and social development. In the context of rapid urbanisation, which is difficult to control, and with the aforementioned sustainable development goal 11 in mind, we need to ask ourselves what kind of living environment or housing we see for the future.

In order to resolve this problem, we need to look at the current state of affairs, the challenges and issues of access to housing, and the relevant initiatives in Cameroon that are helping to meet these challenges, before looking at a few perspectives that will enable us to start thinking about housing in the future.

II. Situation, Challenges and Issues of Access to Decent Housing for All

II.2 Current Situation

In Cameroon, the Government's housing-for-all policy has since been broken down into several areas identified through three major periods:

- The first period, from 1976 to 1986, was marked by the production of 1,400 units, with a policy based on the collaboration of institutional stakeholders SIC-MAETUR-CFC;
- The second period, from 1986 to 2009, was marked by a break in production caused by the global economic crisis;
- The third period, which began in 2009, recorded the launching of Government programmes to build 10,000 low-cost housing units, 2,320 units under the PLANUT programme, and the Sino-Cameroonian cooperation.

In all, 12,000 homes have been built, of which 6,671 sold and 5,329 operated since SIC was founded in 1952. The disruption to housing production caused by the withdrawal of the State as a result of the economic recession between 1986 and 2009, with SIC's existing housing stock of 5,329 units, 70% of which are obsolete, leaving a glaring deficit estimated at around 2,500,000 units, which has worsened as a result of population growth, rural exodus and a number of other endogenous factors. The issue of affordable and resilient housing as a guarantee of the achievement of sustainable cities is therefore becoming increasingly acute in a context of deterioration of the existing housing stock, marked by the growing phenomenon of subletting generated by insufficient supply, uncivil behavior on the part of residents and the lack of investor interest in the development of social housing, which is not profitable.

II.2 Challenges and Stakes

Housing production faces a number of challenges, including:

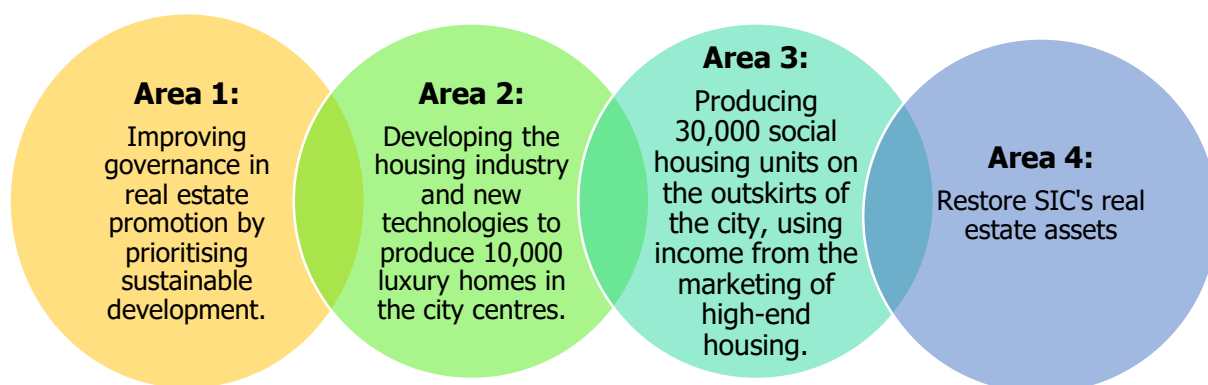
- (i) Access to finance;
- (ii) The structural imbalance resulting from the fall in social housing prices and the payment of the VAT by SIC instead of tenants. It is this state of affairs that makes social housing an unprofitable solution for SIC, which explains why the company must turn to high-standing projects;
- (iii) The land challenge, linked in particular to costly land acquisitions and the encroachment of areas earmarked for social housing, lack of civic spirit and the despoliation of social housing estates, which jeopardises land security operations;
- (iv) Tax-related challenges, as SIC does not yet benefit from tax exemptions.

II. Relevant Cameroonian initiatives to meet the challenges

In order to make up for the deficit in the supply of decent housing and building land, Cameroon, through its Strategic Document for Growth and Employment (DSCE), has drawn up a vast programme for the production of housing of all types throughout the country. While improving on the vision of its predecessor, the National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS30), makes access to decent housing one of the basic social facilities to meet the needs of the population.

Based on the objectives of Cameroon's development vision for 2035, as set out in NDS30, SIC has adopted a vision, the main aim of which is "to make the Cameroon Real Estate Corporation (SIC) a genuine production tool by 2035, capable of responding massively, regularly and appropriately to housing demand from all social strata".

This Vision is broken down into four priority areas of action in order to respond to the concerns raised in the context described above. Namely:



III.1 Government Programmes

(i) Project to build 10,000 social housing units and to develop 50,000 building plots launched in 2009: Of the 1,675 housing units (pilot phase) expected, 1,347 have been completed in the capitals of Yaoundé and Douala.

(ii) Construction Project on Olembé site of 500 housing units by Cameroonian SMEs and 3,000 units by COFFOR CEMAC SA: completion of the carcass construction for two buildings of 20 units.

III.2 Management Mandate

2,320 housing units have been produced, 1,865 have been allocated and 1,799 are occupied, representing an occupancy rate of 77.54%.

The project to design and build 10,000 housing units and their socio-cultural facilities in Yaoundé and the surrounding area by the Italian company IMPRESA PIZZAROTTI &

C. SP marks the third period of housing production, with the conditions for mass production being put in place. The basic contract for this project was signed on 21 March 2017 for the construction of an Industrial Base that will enable the production of 1,000 homes in the pilot phase. It is envisaged that, once the complex is fully operational, the Government will be able to produce 1,000 to 1,500 housing units every year.

With regard to the execution of work on the industrial base on the Nkolmeyos site, the specific completion rate of earthworks is 61% and the overall work completion rate is 14.14% as of 27 May 2024.

III.3. Achievements of Cameroon Real Estate Corporation, the State's Housing Arm

(i) The Residence le Mfoundi: a complex of 152 luxury flats of T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6 types and business sections. This is a major asset for financing social housing, thanks to the profits generated by the sale of the luxury flats in this complex. The Résidence le Mfoundi is currently being marketed.

(ii) Residence Le Djoungolo: a high-standard SS+RDC+8 building for residential use at Hippodrome neighbourhood in Yaoundé, comprising 32 flats, built with joint financing from Afriland First Bank and Shelter Afrique, as part of the implementation of SIC development plan.

(iii) Residence Etetak: a building of fifteen (15) luxury flats at Cité Verte raised on a surface area of 1,248 square metres.

(iv) Residence Abiergue: a building with 24 medium-standard T4 (10) and T5 flats.

(v) Rehabilitation work since 2021 on 269 housing units, including 202 in Yaoundé, 40 in Garoua, and 51 in Kotto and Limbé. There will also be 504 housing units rehabilitated by 2024, including 232 in Maroua, Garoua (64) and Douala-Kotto (128), for which contracts are currently being awarded, and in EDEA (82), Buéa (40) and Yaoundé (150). The total cost of rehabilitation in 2024 is CFAF 2,355,545,524 and the population affected is approximately 2,520 people.

(vi) Development of Land Assets (acquisitions and securing land): in view of the challenges posed by demographic problems and access to land in urban areas, SIC has embarked on a major campaign to secure its land assets and acquire land. In 2019, SIC had 68 sites in its portfolio, including several that had been secured, covering an area of 140 ha 16 a 85 ca, compared with 952 ha 60 a 22 ca unsecured. Between 2020 and 2024, the total surface area of sites acquired and secured is 353 ha 80 a 84 ca and that of sites in the process of being secured is 582 ha 65 a 89 ca. Achievements in terms of land include eight (8) sites with a total surface area of 272 ha 46 a 95 ca

allocated as a share of SIC capital;

III.4. Planned Programmes

In order to respond significantly and appropriately to the ever-increasing demand for housing by the various segments of Cameroon's population, SIC has embarked on a vast three-year programme - 2024-2026 which aims to:

(i) The construction of 2,554 housing units of varying standards at an estimated cost of CFAF 186,949,44,977, i.e. 432 in Maroua, 538 in Garoua, 1,404 in Nlongkak-Yaoundé and 276 in Sangmelima, for an impacted population of 13,250 people. Concerning the preparation of these projects, the Document for the Consultation of Companies (DCE) is available;

(ii) Establishing Social Communication: SIC housing estates are characterized by several types of material and moral incivility. Tenants who do not pay their rent, others who take the place of SIC under sub-letting contracts, vandalized electrical systems, broken windows, messy stairwells, a non-functional drainage system, noise pollution in buildings with no regard for neighbours, unkept green spaces, and so on. Housing of this type is not in line with the new development objectives, and cannot be sustained in the long term, as it is itself destined to disappear due to its misuse. It has also been established that if the occupants of these houses were to behave differently, this would create financial reserves for SIC, which could then invest in improving the housing supply. This is why SIC work to date has not been limited to just one aspect of housing, namely the provision of a decent shelter to guarantee individual safety against any threat and to provide living space and privacy. It has also set out to make up for the lack of communication with local residents and those involved in the housing sector, with a view to optimizing the management of housing estates. In order to resolve the above-mentioned problems of uncivil behaviour and to guarantee the sustainability of housing occupancy, the regular payment of rent and respect for co-residence by each resident, a system has been set up to regulate co-residence and living together. As part of the management of the existing housing stock, the strategy consisted of setting up a tool to improve relations with customers, in order to preserve SIC's estate assets for future generations.

IV. Housing Prospects

Innovation in several areas: Industrialisation, diversification of partnerships/sustainable development

The ambitions arising from SIC's new vision imply urgent and indispensable innovations for the operationalisation of mass production adapted to the needs of all social strata and environment-friendly, in particular:

(i) Concerning industrialization, the use of new technologies for the construction of mass housing and the implementation of four production plants in Yaoundé, Douala, Garoua and Bafoussam, for the manufacture of housing with the assistance of technical and financial partners;

(ii) Concerning Sustainable Development, the use of innovative, sustainable and energy-efficient materials and environmental studies for all current projects.

(iii) The complete renovation of old housing estates located in central cores with the help of technical and financial partners with a view to carrying out the various projects; technical support for private real estate developers and local authorities in the context of decentralization. Specifically, SIC has established partnerships for the production of housing with local authorities, private developers, universities and, recently, with ASBY as part of the 'One Woman, one Home' project;

(iv) Concerning Biodiversity;

(v) The Promotion of Local Materials through the construction of low-carbon, cement-based housing.

Dialogue 2

Cities and the climate crisis

Chapter 3

Cities and the Climate Crisis

Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development (MINDDEVEL)

Introduction

As the 12th edition of the World Urban Forum prepares to take place in Cairo, Egypt, from 04 to 08 November 2024, Cameroon is positioning itself at the heart of global debates on urban resilience in the face of climate crises. This forum is a strategic opportunity for Cameroon's Regional and Local Authorities to share their experience, challenges and ambitions for a more sustainable future. In a context where climate change is having a major impact on our cities and territories, it is imperative to adopt integrated and inclusive solutions to guarantee not only the resilience of infrastructures, but also the safety and well-being of local populations.

The current climate crisis is having a profound effect on the quality of life in cities, accentuating problems such as flooding, heat waves, sanitation and the deterioration of the urban environment. This contribution highlights three priority areas for action by Regional and Local Authorities: developing pedestrian tracks and greening of public spaces, and sustainable waste management. These elements, which are essential for tackling climate crises while improving the quality of urban life, represent a cornerstone of the local sustainable development policies that Cameroon intends to promote internationally at this forum.

I. Climate Crises in Cameroon's RLAs

Cameroon's municipalities and regions are increasingly experience the effects of climate change, manifested in extreme weather phenomena such as recurrent floods, prolonged droughts and difficult waste management in dense urban areas. These impacts pose a direct threat to the socio-economic development of cities, which are home to more than half the country's population and account for 44% of its economic activity. The situation is particularly worrying in at-risk areas such as coasts and flood plains, where communities face unique challenges related to drought and extreme heat.

In response to these challenges, the Minister of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL), in collaboration with the RLAs, is implementing innovative

and inclusive solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure sustainable urban development. Key solutions include:

Pedestrianisation of city centres and public spaces, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and limiting car traffic in densely populated areas. Not only does this initiative reduce air and noise pollution, it also encourages residents to reclaim their public spaces. In Yaoundé, Douala and other major Cameroonian cities, pedestrianisation projects have been launched to transform major roads into pedestrian-only zones, helping to reduce car congestion and improve air quality.

The greening of cities, through the integration of parks, green spaces and urban plant infrastructures, also plays a crucial role in combating climate crises. These green spaces help to regulate temperature, create islands of coolness and encourage biodiversity, while mitigating the effects of heat waves. Green roof and wall projects, as well as the creation of ecological corridors, are at the heart of municipal policies aimed at making cities more resilient to climate change. Cameroon's CTDs are stepping up initiatives to plant trees and make public spaces greener, not only to deal with climate crises, but also to offer people places to relax and enjoy themselves.

Sustainable waste management is another major focus of RLAs' initiatives, and a key challenge for fast-growing cities. Inefficient waste management contributes to soil, air and water pollution, aggravating health risks and climate crises through the production of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. The MINDDEVEL, in collaboration with local authorities, is setting up selective waste collection, recycling and energy recovery systems, transforming waste into reusable resources. By raising public awareness and building the capacity of municipal services, significant progress has been made in reducing open dumps and managing plastic waste, while promoting composting and recycling initiatives at local level.

The recurring effects of climate change are also exacerbating food insecurity, particularly in vulnerable regions such as the Far North, where devastating droughts are exacerbating already alarming rates of food insecurity and loss of livelihoods. Around 16% of the population of the Far North is suffering from food crisis. It is crucial to understand that climate change impacts various socio-economic systems, including food systems, natural capital and infrastructure services. Local administrations face major challenges in integrating climate change into their plans, aligning their local climate objectives with the National Determined Contribution, and strengthening their technical capacities.

Thus, while facing significant challenges, Cameroon's RLAs are working to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies into their urban management. It is essential to increase the resources and tools available to urban planners and local

decision-makers, so that they can make informed decisions and develop effective strategies, taking into account their specific characteristics, to minimise the effects of climate change while meeting the growing needs of their populations.

II. Urban Resilience and Local Governance Issues

Combating climate crises in Cameroonian cities requires a multisectoral and inclusive approach. Local and regional authorities play an essential role in the design and implementation of climate policies adapted to local realities, as they are the first to face the direct impacts of climate crises. Their knowledge of the needs and specific characteristics of their territories is essential, making decentralisation a crucial lever for adapting public policies.

Synergy between local authorities, the private sector, civil society and international partners is essential to ensure the success of these policies. MINDDEVEL intervenes by providing a favourable institutional framework and by strengthening the capacities of local authorities to respond to climate challenges. International cooperation, through partnerships with other cities, also makes it possible to share best practices and mobilise resources for climate transition.

III. The Response of Cameroon's Regional and Local Authorities to the Climate Crisis

The 2035 Vision and the 2020-2030 National Development Strategy (NDS30) emphasise the importance of sustainable development and climate change issues. Cameroon must meet challenges such as social inclusion, economic growth and the transition to a low-carbon economy, while adapting to the effects of climate change. A territorial approach is therefore recognised as essential to achieving these objectives.

Local and regional authorities are increasingly affected by the consequences of climate change, particularly floods, droughts and waste management in dense urban areas. To meet these challenges, the Government, in collaboration with the RLAs and civil society, is implementing innovative and inclusive solutions.

III.1 Climate Awareness and Planning

Although several administrations have adopted climate change action plans (CCAPs), their implementation remains weak. Currently, 50 Cameroonian municipalities are members of the Global Convention of Mayors for Climate and Energy. Of these, 26 are committed to developing a local climate plan, with 7 already completed. Other administrations have designed development plans integrating the climate issue

through participatory approaches, thus strengthening land management and urban planning by taking into account the effects of climate change.

III.2 Mitigation and Adaptation Initiatives

Key initiatives include the pedestrianisation of city centres, which reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improves air quality. Vegetation and green infrastructure projects are also being implemented to regulate urban temperature and promote biodiversity. In addition, RLAs are tackling sustainable waste management, which is essential in fast-growing cities. The MINDDEVEL, in collaboration with the municipalities, is introducing selective collection and waste recovery systems.

a. The city of Douala recently launched the ambitious project dubbed 'Douala Clean City! It's Possible', which aims to mobilise all local players around integrated and efficient solid waste management. The project not only involves waste collection, but also awareness-raising campaigns designed to educate the population about the importance of urban cleanliness and waste sorting practices. By bringing together local authorities, private companies, NGOs and citizens, this programme seeks to bring about a lasting change in behaviour and to transform Douala into a clean and pleasant city to live in. Concrete actions have been initiated to encourage the active participation of the community.

b. In Yaoundé, significant progress has been made in commissioning a sewage sludge treatment plant, a crucial project to improve wastewater management in the capital. Financed to the tune of 4.3 million euro by the AIMF (International Association of French-speaking Mayors), this infrastructure has been designed to treat up to 200 m³ of sludge per day, meeting the growing needs of an urban population of over 4 million. This project not only helps to clean up the urban environment, but also prevents soil and water pollution, while promoting public health. Thanks to this initiative, the Yaounde City Council (CUY) is strengthening its capacity to manage waste, a key issue in the context of rapid demographic growth.

The Green Cities initiative, supported by the FAO, was launched in the Yaoundé IV Council with the aim of transforming waste management practices and encouraging composting at local level. This innovative programme includes a micro-project to train refuse collectors, who are taught not only waste collection techniques but also the importance of composting and urban agriculture. These refuse collectors go directly to households to collect organic waste for composting, while at the same time educating residents about the benefits of this practice. This pilot project has attracted a great deal of interest, encouraging other councils and municipalities to consider similar initiatives, thereby consolidating the commitment of Cameroonian towns and cities to more sustainable practices and resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

These initiatives illustrate how Cameroonian municipalities are adopting innovative and inclusive solutions to the challenges of waste management and sanitation, thereby contributing to sustainable urban development and improving the living standards of their citizens.

IV. Recommendations

1. Reinforcing cooperation between councils; To encourage local authorities to work together and share resources, good practices and experiences. This can be facilitated by setting up networks of cities where municipalities can exchange innovative solutions to climate challenges.
2. Developing financing dedicated to climate adaptation: To mobilise national and international financial resources to support climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, in particular by facilitating access to green funds and creating tax incentives for sustainable initiatives.
3. Improving training and capacity building: To organise training sessions for local elected representatives and RLA staff on climate change issues, sustainable resource management and best practices in urban resilience. A better understanding of climate change issues will promote informed decision-making.
4. Integrating climate change into all urban development plans: To ensure that all local development policies and plans take into account the impacts of climate change. This includes urban planning, water resource management, and building infrastructures that are resilient to the effects of climate change.
5. Promoting the involvement of local communities: To strengthen the participation of citizens and local stakeholders in the design and implementation of climate projects. Public consultations and awareness-raising initiatives can strengthen community support and ensure that proposed solutions meet local needs.
6. Using technology for urban management: To implement geographic information systems (GIS) and smart technologies to better monitor and manage climate impacts in cities. These tools can facilitate data collection and evidence-based planning.
7. Evaluating and adjusting policies regularly: To introduce a monitoring and evaluation system for climate policies, enabling strategies to be adjusted according to the results obtained and changes in environmental and socio-economic conditions.
8. Strengthening international partnerships: To establish links with other countries and international organisations to benefit from their expertise and resources in the fight

against climate crises. These partnerships can also help to increase the visibility and support for Cameroonian initiatives at global level.

V. Prospects

The solutions to be envisaged for cities, whether primary or secondary, must be based on a thorough understanding of their natural characteristics, economic resources, prevailing social conditions and existing institutional framework. It is crucial that each city develops a tailor-made pathway to climate resilience, paying particular attention to several key elements: governance, strategic planning, operational capacities and financing mechanisms.

In this respect, the central level must assume responsibility for coordinating interventions aimed at strengthening systemic resilience. This includes a rigorous assessment of climate risks, the systematic integration of environmental issues into infrastructure planning, and the implementation of early warning systems, which must be accompanied by clear protocols tailored to local conditions. These measures are essential to anticipate crises and minimise their impact.

In addition, the management of urban planning and development must evolve towards a more inclusive and integrated approach. This requires active consultation with local stakeholders, communities and economic players to ensure that their needs and concerns are taken into account. This means drawing up long-term plans that are adapted to local, municipal, regional and national scales. These plans must be accompanied by a solid regulatory framework and effective monitoring mechanisms to ensure that they are properly implemented.

The allocation of adequate financial and technological resources is also essential to encourage this urban transaction. Cities will need to be equipped with the tools they need to integrate new technologies into their urban management systems, particularly in terms of sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change.

In this respect, the model currently being implemented as part of the Project for the Development of Inclusive and Resilient Cities (PDVIR), financed by the World Bank, is a valuable reference.

This project illustrates how cities can benefit from a systemic approach that fosters social inclusion, environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable economic development. By learning from experience and lessons learned, Cameroonian cities can truly transform their challenges into opportunities, building more resilient and sustainable communities for future generations.

Cameroon, through its various ministerial departments, is positioning herself as a key player in the fight against climate crises within its Regional and Local Authorities (RLAs). By taking part in the 2024 World Urban Forum, Cameroon is demonstrating its commitment to promoting urban and resilient solutions to the pressing challenges posed by climate change. Pedestrianisation, greening of public spaces and sustainable waste management are key strategies for improving people's quality of life and ensuring the sustainability of Cameroon's cities.

The initiatives implemented, such as transforming city centres into pedestrianised zones, creating green spaces and developing waste management systems, bear witness to the determination of RLAs to adapt to climate challenges while promoting a healthy urban environment. However, to maximise the impact of these actions, it is essential to strengthen synergies between the various stakeholders, increase financial and technical resources and promote inclusive and participatory governance.

Dialogue 3

“stronger together”

Chapter 4

Cameroon: Enhancing the Tourist Potential in Building Cities

Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL)

Introduction

Sustainable urban development has become a crucial issue in a fast-urbanising world. Cities, which concentrate a great part of the world population, are venues of economic opportunities, creativity but also inequalities, pollution, and vulnerability to climate change. The 12th World Urban Forum (WUF) organized by UN-HABITAT, under the theme "It all starts at home: local actions for sustainable cities and communities", is an opportunity for actors from different backgrounds to gather and share concrete solutions for more inclusive and resilient cities.

In this framework, the "**Stronger Together**" dialogue emphasizes collaboration among the different actors of urban development, including tourism actors, highlighting the need of synergies between governments, international organizations, civil societies, and private enterprises to create inclusive and sustainable cities.

Cameroon, rich by its cultural diversity, natural landscapes, and its historical heritage, has an important role to play in the creation of such cities. The Cameroonian Ministry of Tourism and Leisure, as key institution in the promotion of tourism and leisure can boost local development, promote national economic growth, and contribute to this dynamics by implementing tourist initiatives that strengthen social inclusion, community cohesion, and urban environment protection.

In this presentation, we will focus on several important aspects under the theme "Stronger Together". We will examine how the Ministry of Tourism can promote sustainable tourism in cities, strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors, foster inclusive participation of local communities, and encourage policies that boost resilience and sustainability of Cameroonian cities. We will also show how these actions can align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

I. Cameroon's Tourist Assets

Cameroon is often called "**Africa in Miniature**" due to the diversity of its landscapes, cultures and ecosystems. From its picturesque beaches to majestic mountains, protected national parks to traditional villages, the country offers a variety of tourist attractions that are likely to attract travelers from all over the world. In addition to its biodiversity, Cameroon has a rich historical and cultural heritage, embodied in its multiple ethnic groups and communities.

However, although Cameroon's tourism potential is widely recognized, it remains under-exploited, especially in urban area. Major cities such as Douala, Yaoundé, Bafoussam or Garoua have a considerable potential to develop an attractive urban tourism, which can be used as a lever for economic development, the promotion of culture and the creation of community links.

II. Increasing Urbanization and Related Challenges

As in many developing countries, Cameroon is experiencing a rapid urbanization. According to the United Nations forecasts, by 2050, more than half of Cameroon's population will live in urban areas. This urbanization is often related to increasing pressures on infrastructures, the environment, and public services. In addition, it sometimes leads to the marginalization of the most vulnerable populations, living in informal neighbourhoods, without adequate access to drinking water, education or healthcare.

In this context, it is essential that the development of urban tourism be designed to meet these challenges while creating opportunities for economic growth. The aim is to promote responsible tourism, which is inclusive and beneficial to all sections of the population, while protecting the environment and the cultural heritage of Cameroonian cities.

III. Sustainable Tourism and Cities: Synergies for an Inclusive Development

According to UN Tourism, urban tourism is "a type of tourism activity carried out in an urban environment with the characteristics of a non-agricultural economy – administration, manufacturing industry, trade or services – and a transport hub. Urban/city destinations offer a wide and heterogeneous range of cultural, architectural, technological, social and nature experiences and products for leisure and business purposes." According to UN Tourism, in 2015, 54% of the world's population lived in

urban area and this share is expected to rise to 60% by 2030. Tourism, along with other key pillars, is a central component of the economy, the social life and geography of many cities of the world and is therefore an important element of urban development policies.

Urban tourism can be, for many cities and countries, a driving force for development, by helping to advance the New Urban Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11 "Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". Tourism is inextricably linked to the way cities develop. It raises and improves living conditions for residents and visitors.

Harnessing the potential of tourism for sustainable and inclusive growth in cities must be done through a multi-stakeholder and multi-level approach, based on close cooperation at different levels of government, tourism and non-tourism, with the private sector, local communities and tourists themselves. Similarly, the sustainable development and management of cities must be integrated into the broader framework of actions for cities.

III. Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Urban Areas

Sustainable development is compatible with tourism, insofar as it manages to develop a positive rhetoric, in other words, it is about switching from a negative rhetoric of "not" to a positive rhetoric of "more to live" and thus offering tourists new experiences and a new look at tourism.

In order to reach the most effective level of discourse to spread the demands of sustainable development, it is necessary to address the different levels of tourist behaviour differently, because the shift towards responsible tourist behaviour requires individual change: From "my priority is to make the most of it", to "my priority is to please myself by doing more around me".

Developing tourism that maintains a balance between environmental, economic and social considerations, that is the goal of sustainable tourism development. At destination level, this implies making this ambition the backbone of tourism strategy for the choice of positioning, custom targets, transports, and environmental management. This also implies encouraging all operators, accommodation providers, managers of sites, monuments and services to take ownership of the approach.

Developing sustainable tourism in a sustainable city, integrating reflection on tourism (and on tourists) into the city project, such is the challenge of the next few years for urban tourism. Changing tourism in the city entails changing the city, for the greater benefit of its inhabitants.

Urban tourism, if well managed, can be an important driver of sustainable development. It helps to diversify sources of income for municipalities, create local jobs, and preserve historical and cultural heritage. In addition, by promoting ecological and responsible practices, tourism can contribute to the reduction of the carbon footprint of cities and the preservation of urban ecosystems.

In Cameroon cities provide an ideal framework for the implementation of sustainable tourist initiatives. For example, the city of Yaoundé, could become a model of an ecological tourist city by exploiting its natural parks, historical monuments and infrastructures to host large-scale sporting and cultural events. Similarly, Douala could focus on urban ecotourism by developing discovery circle tours to its colonial heritage and promoting sustainable practices in the organization of major events.

III. Need for Inter-sector Cooperation

The implementation of sustainable tourism in urban areas requires cooperation between several sectors: government, municipalities, private enterprises, local associations, and grassroots communities. It is in this move that the sub-theme "Stronger Together" takes on its full meaning. It highlights the importance of collaboration between urban and tourism development actors to maximize the benefits of tourism and minimize its negative impacts.

For example, Cameroon's Ministry of Tourism and Leisure could work with local authorities to create accessible tourism infrastructures, encourage private investment in the sector, and raise awareness among local communities about the importance of sustainable tourism. In addition, partnerships with international organizations and development agencies could help mobilize funding and expertise for innovative projects in the field of sustainable urban tourism.

IV. Social and Cultural Inclusion Through Urban Tourism

IV.1 Tourism as a Driver of Social Cohesion

Tourism, if inclusive, can play a key role in reducing social divides and promoting cohesion between different urban communities. By creating economic opportunities for marginalized populations, it would contribute to a better distribution of wealth and the improvement of the living standards of inhabitants.

Tourism can become a vehicle for social transformation by providing opportunities for young people, women, and people living in the host areas. For example, training

initiatives in the field of hospitality, catering or crafts could be developed to integrate these populations into the urban tourism value chain.

V. Promoting Cultural Heritage

Cameroon is a multicultural country with more than 250 ethnic groups. This cultural diversity is a wealth that must be highlighted in the development of urban tourism. The enhancement of cultural heritage through festivals, exhibitions, or thematic tourist tours not only promotes local culture, but also strengthens the sense of belonging of communities to their urban environment.

Cameroonian cities, through their architecture, crafts, gastronomy and traditions, can showcase the country's cultural diversity. Initiatives such as the creation of urban museums or the establishment of permanent craft markets in large cities could thus be encouraged by the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure, in collaboration with municipalities and local associations.

VI. Urban Environment and Resilience: an Imperative for Sustainable Tourism

Tourism development can have a negative impact on urban environment if it is not well supervised. The increase in the number of visitors to cities can generate pressure on natural resources, lead to pollution, and degrade local ecosystems. It is therefore essential to put in place policies that promote environment-friendly tourism and the use of green technologies in the tourism industry.

In Cameroonian cities, efforts must be made to promote sustainable tourism infrastructures, such as green hotels, green public transports, or responsible waste management on touristic sites. These initiatives contribute not only to environmental protection, but also to improving the living standards of the inhabitants and the attractiveness of cities as tourist destinations.

Chapter 5

Nation Hygiene, Sanitation and Embellishment Campaign in Cameroonian Cities

“Clean Cities Competition”

Introduction

Cameroon like most Sub-Saharan African countries is experiencing sustained demographic growth and increasing urbanization. In 2021, the urbanization rate was estimated at 58%, i.e. 15,790,071 out of 27,224,262 inhabitants living in urban areas.

Such galloping urbanization raises some challenges in terms of uncontrolled land use, urban sprawl and also management of waste whose production is associated with population growth.

With a view of controlling uncleanliness, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU), under the distinguished patronage of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, has embarked on a far-reaching programme to raise awareness among urban development actors with focus on the participation of the population and councils in hygiene and sanitation activities. As such, annual campaigns are organized in the form of hygiene and sanitation contest among the councils across the national territory in order to reward the winners, emulate and foster participation of the various urban players in the maintenance and sanitation of the living environment of the population. Dubbed “Clean City Contest”, such initiative is aimed at helping to achieve SDG 3 (promoting good health and well-being) and SDG 11 (developing sustainable cities and communities), as well as cities modernization goals enshrined in the National Development Strategy (NDS30).

After the 2020 edition with the participation of the councils of Yaoundé, Douala and Limbe, the competition was then open to all the councils across the national territory. The 2023 edition was won by the Garoua 2 Sub-divisional Council and the 2024 edition by the Ebolowa 2 Sub-divisional Council.

Objectives

The overall objective of the “Clean City” competition is to select and reward the cleanest council in Cameroon in order to foster collective participation of players (local

elected officials, traditional rulers, civil society, population, etc.,) in the sanitation and maintenance of urban spaces and the living environment of the populations.

Specifically, it is intended to:

- Raising awareness and involving actors in the maintenance and sanitation activities of urban green spaces and living environment;
- promoting and perpetuating initiatives and good local practices relating to hygiene and sanitation;
- selecting the cleanest council of each Division;
- selecting the cleanest council of each Region;
- ranking the cleanest cities of the country by order of merit;
- rewarding the winners.

All the councils look beautiful and attractive (garbage out of streets, culverts cleaned, buildings refurbished, junctions beautified, sidewalks and central reserves painted, street lighting enhanced, etc.).

Methodology, and Modus Operandi of the Competition

Methodology

It refers to the various methods or means that will be used to assess councils. In each council, the aim is to make appraisal of hygiene and sanitation activities through questionnaires sent to the population, direct observations, taking images and structured interviews with local elected officials, and then making a ranking according to the evaluation criteria.

The National Hygiene and Sanitation Campaign is open to all the councils from the ten regions of the country.

For this purpose, the selection of the cleanest Council shall be done in two steps:

Step 0: Preparatory activities and solemn launching;

Step 1: Selection of the cleanest council in each Division;

Step 2: Selection of the cleanest Council of each region;

Step 3: Ranking of the region's cleanest Councils by order of merit.

The competition is made up of the following independent management bodies:

- The National Organizing Committee;

- The Regional Organizing Committee;
- The Divisional Organizing Committee;

Modus Operandi

The aim here is to briefly explain the competition process. In other words, the purpose is to list the different levels of the competition (divisional, regional and national levels) while specifying the role(s) that each stakeholder will play.

Preparatory Activities and Official Launching

Preparatory activities focus on the validation and the dissemination of the terms of reference to all stakeholders. Then, shall follow the solemn launching of the competition by the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, in the presence of all the stakeholders (concerned administrations, Regional Councils, City Councils, Councils, sponsors). After the solemn launching, the Governors, Regional Committees Chairpersons shall in their turn launch the related activities in their respective regions.

Step 1: Competition at Divisional Level

In each Division, each DO shall be expected to own the rules and procedures of the competition previously established and to launch the competition within their city by organizing the related activities.

As a result, they will be in charge of putting all the Councils in competition for the general hygiene and embellishment operations on public spaces. They will be expected to establish a Divisional Organising and evaluation Committee for to assess the activities of the Councils according to predefined criteria and to select the cleanest that will represent the Division at the inter divisional level of the competition.

At the end of this step, the results should be transmitted to the Governor within the indicated deadline.

Step 2: Competition at Regional Level

Based on the results obtained at divisional level and predefined criteria, the Governor will be responsible for putting the winning Councils in competition for general sanitation and embellishment operations.

Consequently, the Regional Organising Committee will assess and select the cleanest Council that will represent the Region at the inter regional or national level of the competition.

The results of this step shall be transmitted to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development within the indicated deadlines.

Step 3: Competition at National Level

The third step shall oppose the ten (10) best councils selected at the regional phase. The selection will be done by an international jury that will assess the competitors representing each Region during their visits to the flag bearer city.

Consistency of Operations and Cleanliness Assessment Criteria

These operations include:

- Cleaning of streets;
- Development and beautification of public spaces;
- Combating temporary or permanent street congestion;
- Marking of horizontal and/or vertical road signs;
- Removal of domestic waste and eradication of open-air dumps;
- Cleaning of gutters;
- Restoration of facades, etc.

Overall, evaluation will be carried out according to the following criteria:

- Criteria Relating to the Living and Urban Environment
- Solid waste Management (pre-collection, sorting, recycling, reclamation);
- Liquid waste management
- Maintenance of urban road system
- Development and beautification of public spaces;
- Clearance of congestion;
- Pruning of trees along the streets
- Painting street trees
- Regular weeding of wastelands along the streets;
- Maintenance of watercourse beds;
- Maintenance of water supply points;
- Maintenance of sanitation infrastructures;
- Compliance with the dedicated use of spaces and parking areas;
- Cleanliness of compounds and painting of house fronts.

Criteria for Stakeholder Involvement

- Involvement of municipal executives (means used for the promotion of urban sanitation, percentage of the municipal budget effectively mobilised and used for sanitation activities, existence of a Council Waste Management Plan etc.);
- Organization and citizen mobilization: creation and supervision of neighbourhood committees, level of women and youth involvement in cleaning activities, existence and level of involvement of community groups (associations, NGOs, private actors, etc.) in hygiene and sanitation activities;
- Level of ownership of activities by the populations with a view to their perpetuation.
- In practical terms, the assessment will be done based on the objective criteria assessable in the field and following the assessment grid.

For the various assessment criteria, the following items should be provided to support the Council's declarations.

NO.	Criterion	Sub-criterion	Evidence/Verification Sources
1.	Overall Appearance	Cleanliness and urban aesthetics	Photographs, videos
2.	Cleaning of rivers/watercourses and gutters	Appearance of rivers/streams	Photographs, videos
		Gutters appearance	Photographs, videos
		Quarterly maintenance of rivers/streams	Activity reports, minutes, photos, videos
		Quarterly maintenance of gutters	Activity reports, minutes, photos, videos
3.	Involvement of the Council	Communication tools used to raise awareness	Photographs of communication tools, minutes, activity report
		Establishment of days dedicated to sanitation in the Council	Documents instituting clean up day, activity report, minutes, photographs, videos
		Anti COVID-19 measures, vectors and other diseases	Photographs, videos, bills

		Percentage of the council's budget actually used for sanitation activities in the year n-1	Administrative account
		Existence of the Municipal Waste Management Plan (MWMP)	Contract with a service provider to carry out the studies / approved PCGD
4.	Citizen participation	Weekly rate of population participation in sanitation activities	Attendance sheet, activity report
		Existence of neighborhood committees (number of existing committee/ number of neighborhood)	Municipal deliberations (Decree NO. 0147 /A/MINDDEVEL/ of 19 July 2023 setting out the terms and conditions for the creation, organization and operation of Neighborhood or Village Committees within the framework of citizen participation in municipal action)
5.	Organization of Hygiene and Sanitation Activities	Existence of waste recovery promoting initiatives	Photographs, videos, activity report
		Collaboration between the council with the CSOs and enterprises in structuring hygiene and sanitation activities	Partnership agreement, activity report

For the evaluation of the final phase of the competition, the International Jury will visit the randomly selected infrastructures on a scale proposed by the Council.

Rewards and Awards

Awards presentation will take place during the celebration of the World Habitat Day, the first Monday of October each year.

The prizes shall be distributed as follows:

1st Category: The cleanest council of each Region;

2nd Category: The cleanest council of each Division.

The following awards shall also be given:

- The Animation and Development Committees or the most committed community group in each Region;
- The most dynamic women of each Region;
- The most dynamic youths of each Region;

Communication Tools and Channels

Media Coverage

The activities of the "*Clean City*" competition will be covered by the media: radio, television, written press, online press, website, social media, competition brochure, gadgets (t-shirts, caps, key holders, pens, etc.).

A posting campaign will be organized with billboard coverage. This campaign may take various forms depending on the specificities of the selected localities. It should primarily target public spaces (markets, stations, crossroads, etc.)

Meaningful messages and images, small videogrammes will be disseminated in order to anchor hygiene, sanitation and embellishment preservation attitudes in the minds.

Winners of the "Clean City" Competition

2019: Melen neighborhood in Yaounde 6 Sub-Divisional Council

2020: 1st Limbe I Sub-divisional Council; 2nd Douala III; 3rd Yaoundé V

2021: 1st Ebolowa II Sub-divisional Council; 2nd Douala II; 3rd Yaoundé V

2022: 1st Yaounde V Sub-divisional Council; 2nd Garoua II; 3rd Bertoua III

2023: 1st Garoua II Sub-divisional Council; 2nd Nkongsamba Council; 3rd Ebolowa II

2024: 1st Ebolowa II Sub-divisional Council; 2nd Nkambe Council; 3rd Mayo-Darlé Council

Dialogue 5: “Making People the Priority in the Digital Era”

Chapter 6

Contribution of Digital Technologies and Innovation: “Smart Cities”

I. Digitalisation and the Urban Challenge

Cameroon is following the global trend of galloping urbanisation which, according to the World Urbanization Prospects 2018 report published by the United Nations, will lead to 68.4% of the world's population living in cities by 2050. The rate of urbanisation is accelerating sharply, rising from 28.5% in 1976, 37.8% in 1987 to 52% in 2010, with an estimated 59.4% in 2022 (BUCREP-RGPH 1976, 1987, 2005 and projections).

This accelerated urban growth automatically translates into increased demand for urban services (transport, sanitation, waste, etc.), more complex issues such as urban mobility, and the emergence of new strategic emergencies such as climate change and disasters.

These challenges call for innovative approaches that can meet the aforementioned needs, but as part of a vision of sustainable urban development, incorporating the criteria of inclusiveness and resilience as formulated in the SDGs and the New Agenda for Cities.

Among these approaches, the “Smart City” has emerged in recent years as an urbanisation paradigm that exploits both digital and green technologies to make cities more competitive and generators of economic wealth, more efficient in the delivery of their services, as part of a stronger participatory governance through data sharing.

Indeed, technology has been integrated into almost every aspect of public and private life, offering promising opportunities to optimise key elements of human settlements, including mobility, energy, water, healthcare, education, housing, public services, public space, public administration, the environment and infrastructures. In “smart cities”, these aspects of life are improved through technologies aimed at optimisation, efficiency and convenience. Smart city technologies can generate new data streams that feed intelligence platforms, running analytics to gain better insights into behaviours and performance.

“The rapid urbanisation of our major cities and the challenges it poses for space planning mean that we need to rethink our approaches and develop sustainable and

inclusive solutions for the development of our cities¹". To talk of a Smart City implies optimising the management of natural resources by using connected items to serve users. Of course, this means implementing sustainable and ecological urban planning (street lighting, bulky waste management, management of water and electricity networks, etc.), as well as setting up sustainable and multimodal transport systems for local users.

II. Embryonic Uses

Although the use of digital tools in urban management remains low, whether for data collection, user information, matching demand with transport supply, or for better quality services, a few applications are emerging, mainly from private operators.

In Yaoundé and Douala, there are platforms for ordering taxis (Yango, Vairified), and platforms for buying tickets online for air, rail and intercity transport.

Digital monetisation applications are available online and via ATMs for banking transactions, and digital service platforms are available to the public in various fields (education, taxation, health, etc.).

In terms of urban security, the National Plan for an intelligent urban video surveillance system is a project designed to strengthen the operational capabilities of the police and territorial surveillance. The first phase of this project has been completed, and included the installation of 1,500 video surveillance cameras in some of Cameroon's cities. The cameras were installed in all the regional capitals, as well as in strategic towns such as Kribi, Kyé-Ossi, Garoua-Boulai, Waza, Fotokol, Kousseri and Amchidé. In addition, national video surveillance command centres are being built.

In intercity transport, the Ministry of Transport is trialling the Intelligent and Centralised Intercity Transport Management and Monitoring Project. This intelligent monitoring system for large buses will make it possible to monitor drivers' behaviour using cameras installed in their vehicles, check drivers' biometric parameters, track intercity vehicles using geolocation, monitor the vehicle's external and internal environment using intelligent on-board cameras, and monitor dangerous practices.

III. National Plan for Smart Cities:

Urban players in Cameroon have recognised the interest and relevance of this urban model. In fact, the Bertoua Declaration adopted on 03 October 2022, as part of the

¹ Speech by Célestine KETCHA COURTES, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, at the workshop to launch the detailed planning studies for the Okola urban development centre, on 23 September 2024.

celebration of the World Habitat Day (WHD), committed the State and the local authorities to initiating a process of digital appropriation to deal with the increased complexity of city management. To this end, it recommended that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development designs, in consultation with stakeholders, a National Plan for Smart Cities in Cameroon. For its implementation, MINH DU has included the relevant project in its 2023-2025 MTEF, and has set up a participatory steering committee (RLA, FEICOM, MINPOSTEL, CAMTEL), with UN-HABITAT as strategic partner.

This National Plan will provide the councils with a coherent and controlled framework for the operationalisation of the Smart City, taking into account technological, financial, human and organisational constraints.

Dialogue 6
“loss of housing”

Chapter 7

Loss of Housing in the Cameroonian Context

Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT)

Introduction

In a global context marked by rapid urbanisation, the issue of housing is a challenge for African countries in particular. The 12th World Urban Forum, organised under the aegis of UN-Habitat, gives us the opportunity to address crucial issues, including the loss of housing, which is a challenge for public administrations and private sector partners. This phenomenon, which is exacerbated by economic crises, natural disasters, conflicts and climate change, calls for solutions that are both innovative and pragmatic.

I. Loss of Housing in the Cameroonian Context

In Cameroon, loss of housing takes many forms, including eviction, natural disasters (floods, landslides), destruction caused by armed conflict (particularly in the English-speaking regions and the Far North), and economic insecurity, which forces many families to live in precarious housing conditions.

According to recent estimates, several thousand Cameroonians are affected by residential insecurity, with a direct impact on their social, economic and psychological well-being. Faced with this situation, the responsibilities of the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT) and the Association of Real Estate Developers (APIC) are manifold and form part of a broader framework of territorial management and coordination of local and national actions.

II. Responsibilities of the Ministry of Territorial Administration

MINAT plays a central role in the management of humanitarian crises, natural disasters and situations of forced displacement, in coordination with other ministries and international partners. Its main responsibilities include:

1. Coordinating the Management of Humanitarian Crisis: In the event of a natural disaster or armed conflicts resulting in mass population displacements, the MINAT is responsible for organising the humanitarian response, including the provision

of temporary accommodation, the distribution of essential goods and the resettlement of internally displaced persons.

2. Disasters Prevention and Risk Management: MINAT is responsible for implementing natural disaster prevention policies. It works in partnership with local authorities to identify risk-prone areas, rehabilitate defective infrastructures and raise people's awareness of home safety.

3. Supervision of Local Players: The Ministry supports Regional and Local Authorities in managing urban issues, including housing. It supports local efforts in land use planning, urban development and social housing to prevent housing losses.

4. Regulation of Forced Evictions: In collaboration with the Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure, the MINAT ensures the legality of eviction operations and the protection of citizens' rights. It works to promote viable alternatives, such as planned relocation or access to decent housing.

The Association of Real Estate Developers of Cameroon:

- conducts all studies on real estate problems in Cameroon.
- promotes social dialogue within companies in the real estate sector.
- supports public authorities in designing and implementing policies applicable to the real estate sector.

III. Cameroon's Contribution

Within the framework of the 12th World Urban Forum, Cameroon is positioning herself as a committed player in the search for solutions to the loss of housing, in a context marked by rapid urbanisation and the challenges linked to the management of sustainable cities. Cameroon, through MINAT, is highlighting:

- **Improving Urban Management;** Cameroonian cities must adapt to the challenges posed by climate disasters and forced displacement, while guaranteeing access to decent housing for all.
- **Management of Humanitarian Crisis:** Faced with internal displacements caused by conflicts, Cameroon is proposing to strengthen partnerships between local authorities and international players to provide better care to vulnerable populations.
- **Developing an Inclusive Housing Policy:** The Cameroonian Government intends to draw on international best practices to design housing policies that

meet the needs of the most disadvantaged and include the fight against precarious housing.

IV. Prospects and Recommendations

In order to reduce the loss of housing in Cameroon, several actions need to be strengthened:

- 1. Strengthening Prevention Mechanisms:** Local authorities must be better equipped to prevent housing losses linked to natural disasters through rigorous urban planning.
- 2. Access to Affordable Housing:** A more ambitious social housing construction policy must be put in place, with the collaboration of public and private players, to meet the growing demand.
- 3. Improvement of the Living Standards of Locally Displaced Persons:** The MINAT must continue its efforts to ensure a rapid and appropriate humanitarian response to displaced populations, while promoting sustainable housing solutions.
- 4. International Collaboration:** Cameroon must continue to strengthen its partnerships with international institutions, such as UN-Habitat, in order to benefit from best practices in urban management and the fight against housing insecurity.

Conclusion

Housing loss is a complex issue that requires a multi-sector response. The Ministry of Territorial Administration, which is at the heart of this issue, is tasked to strengthen crisis management, preventing risks and guaranteeing Cameroonian citizens the right to decent housing. **The 12th World Urban Forum** offers us a unique opportunity to discuss the challenges and solutions, and to build a more resilient and inclusive urban future in Cameroon.

