



RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY FOCUS

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Implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms: Cameroonian stakeholders poised to redynamise monitoring actions



Participants pose for family photo

Government authorities and civil society organizations(CSO) working in the area of human rights in Cameroon have noted that working together will lead to a better and effective follow-up of implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms, as well as reporting to such mechanisms.

Joint actions such as in the effective involvement and consideration of CSOs by the government in the elaboration of country reports at the level of information gathering, monitoring of implementation etc. are some of the major recommendations adopted at the end of the two day national reflection workshop for relevant government focal points and CSOs on the follow-up of implementation of recommendations and reporting to human rights mechanisms.

Participants at the workshop which was organized by the United Nations Centre for Human rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA) from 19-20 August 2014 in Bamenda also recommended more capacity building for stakeholders for a better understanding of recommendations as

well as the setting up of effective and accessible mechanisms for the dissemination of recommendations including through functional and updated websites by the government. CSOs also took the firm commitment to henceforth work in synergy within thematic areas to facilitate dissemination, and follow-up recommendations at various levels.

During the workshop, participants were sensitized on the techniques of preparing a State report to be submitted to a monitoring mechanism. They also brainstormed on challenges faced in the dissemination and follow-up of implementation of recommendations as well as on the human rights legal framework at regional and international level and Cameroon's engagements with human rights mechanisms.

By the UNCHRD

Mise en œuvre des conventions ratifiées par le Cameroun : Les parties prenantes sont d'accord pour plus d'engagement

Les représentants du Parlement, du Gouvernement, de la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés (CNDHL) et des Agences du Système des Nations Unies ont renouvelé leur engagement dans le suivi de la mise en œuvre des conventions ratifiées par le Cameroun.



Participants en groupe de travail

La constitution d'un groupe de travail au niveau du Parlement et l'élargissement du Comité interministériel chargé du suivi de la mise en œuvre des recommandations et des observations des mécanismes des droits de l'homme sont parmi les résolutions importantes qui ont été retenues à l'issue de l'atelier organisée par le Centre des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme et la Démocratie en Afrique Centrale (CNUDHD-AC) du 12 au 13 août 2014 à Mbalmayo.

Par ailleurs, les participants ont décidé d'un commun accord d'impliquer les collectivités territoriales décentralisées et les autres acteurs au niveau national dans la sensibilisation des populations à la compréhension de leurs droits, de mener des activités de plaidoyer auprès des autorités compétentes et renforcer davantage les capacités des différents acteurs, avec l'assistance des agences du système des Nations Unies.

Cet atelier avait pour objectif de renforcer les capacités des acteurs étatiques et non-étatiques impliqués dans le processus d'internalisation des conventions ratifiées par le Cameroun, sur le suivi et la mise en œuvre des recommandations faites à l'Etat du Cameroun par les organes des traités, les procédures spéciales et l'Examen Périodique Universel, en vue de les encourager à élaborer des mécanismes effectifs et efficaces de mise en œuvre. Pendant deux jours, les participant/es ont été informés sur les systèmes et mécanismes internationaux et régionaux de promotion et de protection des droits de l'homme, sur l'état de ratification des instruments

internationaux et régionaux par le Cameroun et sur l'état d'internalisation et de mise en œuvre desdits instruments sur le plan national.

Cet atelier a entièrement été suivi par le représentant du Ministère des Relations Extérieures (MINREX), Monsieur Owono Mengue le Désiré Jean-Claude, en compagnie du Représentant du Directeur du CNUDHD-AC, Monsieur Martin Komakech. Les deux officiels ont d'ailleurs souligné l'importance de cet atelier et ont invité les participants à ne ménager aucun effort pour le suivi de la mise en œuvre des conventions ratifiées par le Cameroun.



Photo de famille



Cameroon: more actions needed to improve the education of Indigenous People



Basic Education Minister and Director of the Centre officially open ceremony

The United Nations Centre for Human rights and Democracy in Central Africa is assisting the government of Cameroon by putting in place innovative ways and means of adapting and integrating the specific cultural needs of the Indigenous people in the educational system.

The Regional Representative and the Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA) Ahowanou Agbessi has urged the government of Cameroon and other educational stakeholders to fully integrate the rights of indigenous people in the educational system.

He made the call on 5 July 2014 in Yaoundé during the opening ceremony of a two day workshop on strategies and methods of adapting the educational program in Cameroon to the culture and mode of life of the indigenous people. The activity was jointly organized by the Cameroon Ministry of Basic Education and the Centre.

“Generally, it should be noted that the prevailing educational system in Cameroon does not take into consideration the specific cultural needs of the indigenous people” Agbessi highlighted. He stressed that any veritable development in Cameroon must take into consideration the specific needs of the indigenous people who are often in the minority.

In her opening address, the Minister of Basic Education Youssouf Adidja Alim lauded the rights promotion efforts of the Centre in Cameroon and the entire sub region especially in the area of countering discrimination against marginalized groups. She outlined government’s concrete actions taken both

at national and international levels to ensure that human rights are respected in every area of life including the right to education.

“the right to education of the indigenous people in Cameroon who are made up of the Baka, Bakola, Bangyeli or the pigmies and the Mbororos is amongst the ministry’s top priority” the Minister declared.

Participants at the workshop will be expected to put in place a strategic plan which will take into consideration the specific needs of the indigenous people in the educational system in Cameroon and subsequently improve the scholarization rate of these groups of people.





CARO and ILO hold training, project documentaries on rights of Indigenous People in Cameroon

It was in prelude to the 19th edition of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples observed under the theme "Bridging the gap, implementing the rights of the Indigenous People".



Participants pose for family photo

The United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA) has trained media professionals in Cameroon on the rights of Indigenous People and their role in promoting and protecting these rights. The Centre and its partners in this project notably ILO and CED also projected two video documentaries to state and non-state actors including the media and representatives of the Indigenous Peoples on their rights.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the national capacity building workshop for media professionals on the rights of Indigenous People on 8 August 2014 in Yaoundé, Benoit Guiguet of the International Labor Organization (ILO) said the workshop was aimed at sensitizing media professionals on the rights of Indigenous People as well as putting in place a forum which could serve as a framework for dialogue between the Indigenous People and the media.

During the one day workshop, media professionals together with representatives of indigenous Peoples were sensitized on the national and international legal instruments that protect the rights of indigenous Peoples. They also elaborated a draft checklist for media coverage of Indigenous Peoples issues which will

constitute part of a media guide on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to be jointly produced by the Centre and ILO. Prior to the training, the Centre projected two video documentaries on 7 August 2014 on the rights of the Indigenous Peoples in Cameroon and in Congo. The ensuing discussions pointed to the fact that much still has to be done to ensure that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are protected and respected in Cameroon and in the sub region.





International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August 2014

Message by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay and ILO Director-General Guy Ryder

Today we mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. There is much to celebrate, including solid human rights standards on which to build inclusive societies in partnership with indigenous peoples. The imprint of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169), can today be found across the globe on many national laws, policies and institutions – clear evidence that moving indigenous peoples' rights from theory to practice is possible and beneficial.

But there is also much to make us pause for reflection. Indigenous peoples are disproportionately affected by poverty, and they face systemic discrimination and exclusion from political and economic decision-making. In all regions, we still witness wide gaps between human rights commitments and realities faced by indigenous peoples. That is why the theme of this year's International Day, "Bridging the gap: implementing the rights of indigenous peoples", could not be more fitting.

We need to bolster our efforts to combat discrimination, to ensure respect for indigenous peoples' cultures, identity and institutions, to promote their important contribution to cultural diversity and to protect their cultural heritage and resources. We need renewed commitment with which to bridge the implementation gap. We have a unique occasion to demonstrate this next month, as Member States and indigenous peoples gather in New York for the first-ever World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The World Conference is an opportunity to develop, with indigenous peoples, a practical roadmap leading to stronger action to promote and protect the rights of

indigenous peoples. This can include action plans to implement the UNDRIP as well as further ratifications of ILO Convention No. 169, as we celebrate its 25th anniversary. The World Conference should also contribute to the development of an inclusive post-2015 development agenda, including Sustainable Development Goals that fully reflect the rights of indigenous peoples.

Bridging the implementation gap of indigenous peoples' rights also requires enhanced field action by the UN and closer partnerships with indigenous peoples and governments at the national level. This is the objective of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Partnership (UNIPP), an inter-agency initiative launched by ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA.

Activities under this partnership are based on recommendations by the UN mechanisms dealing with indigenous peoples. Concrete impact on the ground is outlined in a recent publication "[UNIPP Success Stories: Cooperating to promote and protect indigenous peoples' rights](#)".

The ILO and OHCHR are committed to expanding positive practices and working together with indigenous peoples and other partners to bridge the implementation gap and to achieve full realization of indigenous peoples' rights.

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