



I am PEACE

A youth advocacy initiative for the promotion of peace in Cameroon

Edition No. 0002



RESOLVING THE ANGLOPHONE CRISIS: YOUNG CSO VOICES ADVANCE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Exploring the path to sustainable peace in the search for a solution to the Anglophone Crisis
Young leaders echo youth voices on constitutional reform, youth empowerment and participation, collaborative governance etc.

**Upcoming
National Youth Forum for Peace**
September 27-28, 2023, Palais de Congres
Announcement, objectives,
projected outcomes and impact



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Produced by the Movement for Democracy, Development and Transparency (MDDT) Cameroon in collaboration with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), U.S.A.



NON-VIOLENCE PRO-DIALOGUE



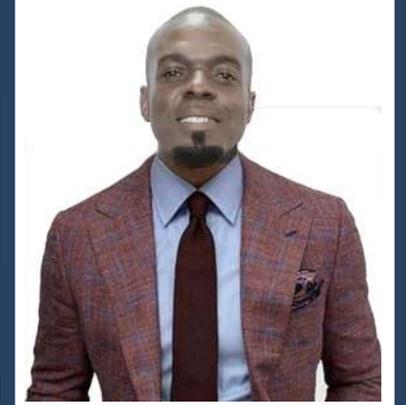
Letter From the Editor

Dear readers,

I greet you all on behalf of MDDT Cameroon. **“I Am Peace”** is a newsletter that constitutes one of the components of an MDDT-NED project on promoting youth advocacy and reducing youth radicalization in the two English-speaking regions of Cameroon which have, for over six years, been engulfed in what is globally known as the **“Anglophone Crisis”**. It serves as a medium to amplify and communicate youth voices on possible solutions to the Crisis along the corridors of inter-governmental organizations, diplomatic missions, government agencies, local and international NGOs and CSOs, etc.,.

Our focus in this edition is not to present randomly sampled opinions but rather, to project and echo identified, consistent and progressive youth voices in the endless search for peace and a judicious solution to the crisis. Through the perspectives and activities of over 10 youth leaders, we hope to demonstrate the relevance, importance and necessity of youth involvement, participation, and collaboration in governance as key considerations in the determination and preservation of peace and development.

In this edition, we shall see how these active and seasoned youth executives of Cameroonian CSOs approach the peaceful resolution of the Anglophone crisis from diverse perspectives, some of which include **a proposal for a constitutional review that hinges on the “Special Status” attributed to the Anglophone regions to justify the need of a form of state that unifies and consolidates Cameroon's cultural diversity; the need for a strategic combination of socio-political, economic and cultural actions to facilitate the restoration and preservation of peace; intensifying the fight against corruption, ensuring participatory and collaborative governance as fundamental elements to rebuilding public trust; inclusive youth engagement and prioritization in socio-political and economic processes as guarantors for peace; strengthening civilian protection and prevention mechanisms which focus on addressing insecurity, youth unemployment, youth radicalization and youth reintegration; securing relevant partnerships to support peace processes etc.**



Walters Shashan B. Mbinglo
(Editor)

One aspect that resonates in most of the articles and that has been diagnosed as a major weakness in almost all endeavors to address the crisis to date, is the absence, inadequacy, or disregard for youth involvement. Considering the current national demographic favoring a predominantly vibrant youthful population coupled with the fact that youths are the most affected by the crisis, increasing calls for inclusive youth participation indicate that youth engagement, particularly by the state, has been insignificant in the peace-finding process. It is quite unfortunate that youth engagement in governance has often been treated as an ideology rather than a commitment, and shamelessly flaunted as content for political play rather than a tool for nation-building. It is thus incumbent on all persons of goodwill, state and non-state actors, citizens, and well-wishers, to ensure that all hands are on deck to foster a return to peace and eventual resolution of the Anglophone Crisis. This ultimately implies the inclusion of youth in most, if not all, pro-peace processes.

We are therefore, pleased to present insights from young CSO leaders on youth perspectives and considerations for good governance, sustainable peace, and a possible resolution of the Anglophone Crisis. On behalf of MDDT Cameroon, and its partner, NED, we invite you to appreciate these contributions as part of our common effort in the search for a peaceful resolution of the Anglophone crisis.

A CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW WITH FOCUS ON DERIVING A FORM OF STATE THAT UNIFIES AND CONSOLIDATES CAMEROON'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY.

One must applaud the visible efforts of the government of Cameroon, which has, for the last six (06) years, employed military, social, economic, developmental, and judicial solutions to resolve the Anglophone Crisis. The government is attempting a political solution, a speedy implementation of Part X (**Articles 55 - 62**) of the Cameroonian Constitution on Regional and Local Authorities (Decentralization), and the award of a Special Status to the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon after the Major National Dialogue, yet to be effected. Despite the above measures, the Anglophone Crisis continues to witness killings of civilians and military personnel, abductions, arbitrary arrests, harassment and torture, and youth radicalization, especially with the recent production of Innovative Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Our beloved government cannot continue killing a tree by cutting its trunk and ignoring its roots. It is time to revisit history and take the bull by its horns. The 1961 union between La Republic du Cameroun and Southern Cameroon must be genuinely assessed and redressed. ***Why the cries for a separation or restructuring? We cannot minimize our 62 years as a nation, but where do we go from here?***

I therefore recommend a constitutional review via a genuine and transparent dialogue with the primary actors in the crisis and a focus on determining the form of the state that reflects our history and diversity. As a sovereign people with total consideration for our rich cultural diversity and history, we must minimize our colonial inclinations towards consolidating peace and security in Cameroon.

Article 64 of the Cameroon Constitution states thus:

"No procedure for the amendment of the Constitution affecting the republican form, unity, and territorial integrity of the state and the democratic principles that govern the Republic shall be accepted".

There is therefore a need to revisit Article 64 and open up a constitutional dialogue with a focus on the form of the state as a lasting solution to the root causes of the Anglophone crisis. One of the resolutions of the Major National Dialogue is to award special status to the



CLIFFORD NIBA AKONTEH

Clifford is a Cameroonian lawyer with over 15 years experience in civil society, promoting human rights, democracy, and peace across Central and West Africa. He is ***Mandela Washington Fellow (MWF 2018)*** and former Chairperson of the ***MWF Regional Advisory Board for West Africa***, where he served as liaison officer between 21 countries and USAID and IREX.

He has also served as MWF Cameroon President and Executive Director for the ***Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA) for Central Africa and Francophone African Countries***.

Akonteh currently serves as the National Coordinator for ***MDDT Cameroon*** and Managing Partner of ***Poubom & Partners' Law Firm***. He has a passion for youth engagement in democratic and peace processes.



North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon. This testifies that the government is willing to compromise on the form of the state, contrary to Article 64 of the Constitution, and we continue to encourage the government to open doors for a constitutional dialogue.

The **NERA 10** or **Sessekou Ayuk Tabe group** currently sentenced to life imprisonment will be very relevant, including primary actors in leading "Ambazonian groups" both at the national level and in the diaspora.

Over those years, the **Movement for Democracy, Development, and Transparency (MDDT)** in Cameroon, in collaboration with the National Endowment for Democracy, has been promoting youth advocacy and reducing youth radicalization in the Anglophone Regions. Through organizing youth-friendly activities such as competitive sports, cultural festivals, and musical events, MDDT has penetrated hotspots in Ngoketunjia Division, Bali Sub-division, Bafut Sub-

division, Mezam Division, Fako Division, Meme Division, and Manyu Division, creating at least 50 Youth Civic Hubs to advocate against youth radicalization, ceasefire, and dialogue. Through its **"Let Dialogue Lead Campaign,"** MDDT Cameroon has created online platforms to dilute misinformation and sensitize youths on the ills of violence and war. It has organized three (3) roundtable conferences with stakeholders to drive advocacy for inclusive dialogue and peace.





AEHSHATOU MANU

Aehshatou Manu is an indigenous people's rights Advocate and Peace builder with knowledge and strong interest in public policy and advancement of the Human Rights of marginalized groups. For several Years now, Ms. Manu has engage in peace building processes across Cameroon and beyond. She has been trained on alternative dispute resolution techniques/processes.

Manu is a founding member of the Cameroon Women Peace Movement, which aim is to promote Women role in Peace building. Through this network, she was able to organize the first ever National Women's Convention for Peace in Cameroon, Yaounde in July 2021.

As a peace builder, she has advocated and influenced decisions to ensure the inclusion of women and youths in the peace building processes and has contributed to the localization of the UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 2250 at the grassroots level.

SECURING PEACE VIA A STRATEGIC COMBINATION OF SOCIO-POLITICAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-CULTURAL ACTIONS

The North-West and South-West regions have been the theatre of armed conflict between the regular army and separatist fighters since October 2016. The Anglo-phone conflict in Cameroon, now in its sixth year, has not only affected the country's socio-political and economic landscape, but continues to have a profound and often devastating impact on the populations in the affected regions, the youth in particular. As such, the crisis remains a huge concern for all Cameroonians, especially the youth.

Since the outbreak of this crisis, many actors have struggled to address the issue, hoping to find a permanent solution. From the international community through regional, national, and local voices, an array of solutions have been proposed towards resolving the conflict; this implies that a genuine and long-lasting redress must entail a combination of several initiatives. From civil society activities conducted involving a diversity of community youth groups at several levels, both in the affected regions and nationally, the following proposals have been assembled to project youth voices that eagerly seek a peaceful resolution of the crisis:

Firstly, there is the need for a ceasefire to be declared in the two regions. This proposal stems from a yearning to save lives because people continue to die on a daily basis, especially the youth, who remain the most victimized. This proposal is primordial because it is bound to establish an enabling environment for the consideration and implementation of other measures.

Secondly, there's a need for a genuine and all-inclusive dialogue without preconditions. This way, the conflicting actors (government and separatists) and



stakeholders can assemble and on the root causes of the problem and see how best to find a mutually beneficial solution. While the call for dialogue continues to be echoed, the nature and conduct of such an initiative are highly important. Failing to ensure that it is genuinely transparent and inclusive, any such dialogue is bound to have limited outcomes.

Thirdly, there is an urgent need for grassroots reconciliation initiatives. The crisis has witnessed the revival of ethnic tensions in some parts of the affected regions. Worsened by the prevalence of hate speech, enmity and animosity are now existent among some people, tribes, and communities. In some cases, the conflict has been used as a means of settling scores, fueling cycles of violence. While such reconciliation initiatives aim for peaceful coexistence, they should be accompanied by judicial processes that transparently redress reported cases.

Coupled with this, is the need to provide funding for social cohesion initiatives in general. Civil society organizations, religious leaders, and acclaimed role models, for example, need to step up and be motivated to engage in continuous activities that preach peace and reconciliation, denounce bad governance, condemn social ills, and encourage peaceful co-existence.

There is also a need to enhance the capacities of youth by involving them in all peace and nation-building processes. Through various opportunities, young people, considered to be the main actors and victims of the conflict, must be provided with initiatives for capacity building that seek to include them in decision-making and governance processes, facilitate their access to opportunities for financial independence, etc. In this way, youth radicalization will be curbed, and young people will be nurtured to ensure better governance, assume responsibility, and make contributions to national economic growth.

To conclude, an international approach to addressing this crisis is critical. This presupposes, firstly, the genuine inclusion of all stakeholders in the armed conflict and, secondly, a proper representation of all relevant groups, especially women and youths, who have been known to lead community actions that have positively transformed armed conflicts.

“I have engage in many activities and projects on peace building to promote social coexistence in communities. One of the initiative we have put in place dialogue platforms between communities to reduce conflict among them. Working on daily basis, I have contributed in establishing dialogue platforms in communities around the country towards reducing conflict and ensuring peaceful coexistence amongst peoples and communities.”

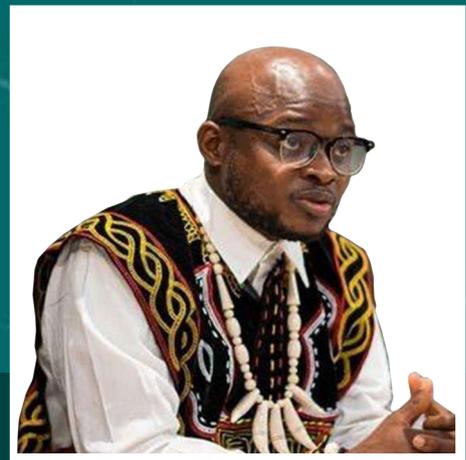


INCLUSIVE YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH COLLABORATION IN SOCIO-POLITICAL PROCESSES: A GUARANTOR FOR PEACE TOWARDS REDRESSING THE ANGLOPHONE CRISIS

The current demographic of Cameroon's population indicates an overwhelming superiority of the younger generation. This growth indicates the space young people should occupy in igniting socio-political change in the country. It is unquestionable that young people's commitment to development and diverse courses of actions in the socio-political arena over the years, have greatly contributed to promoting sustainable peace in Cameroon, as well as promoting social cohesion. Interestingly, being a young person is a transitory state as the young people of today will be the leaders of tomorrow like the leaders of today who were equally the young people of yesterday.

Therefore, as regards proposed solutions for a peaceful resolution of the Anglophone crisis, there is need for **inclusive Youth participation at all levels of the socio-political and economic processes**. There are many peaceful ways to resolve the "Anglophone problem," and violence is not the solution. The Cameroonian government has taken certain initiatives towards providing solutions to the ongoing unrest. Amongst there, was the "Major National Dialogue" (MND) held between September 30 and October 4, 2019. However genuine or not, and considering the severity of the Anglophone crisis, this initiative failed to ensure the active involvement and participation of the youths in the dialogue process. Excluding them in such an important process was detrimental to the successful attainment of its outcomes and as well as the fate of the ongoing crisis. Having young people partake in decision-making about the crisis shall therefore be a significant contributor to enhancing a return of calm and serenity to the two English-speaking regions. This will, in one way or the other, orient them about the need for a peaceful approach toward quenching the burning flame within Anglophones in Cameroon.

Secondly, there is need to foster **youth collaboration**. In their efforts to contribute towards peace in the country, young people must have maximum support from the different institutions in the country (both government and non-governmental) to be effective. Government, traditional, religious, and community



ACHELEKE Christian Leke

Achaleke Christian Leke is an expert in counter violent-extremism, peace building and international development with 15 years of experience as a practitioner, researcher and academician. He holds an MSc in International Development from the University of Birmingham, UK. He was recently appointed by the African Union (AU) as the AU Youth Ambassador for Peace for the Central African Region.

He currently serves as the Executive Director of Local Youth Corner Cameroon, a youth-led peace building organization based in Cameroon. Achaleke has grown into a global expert with experience from over 50 countries and a track record of executing over 600 peace building and youth development projects.

leaders continue to see them as perpetrators of violence and victims rather than solution providers and key partners for peace. **The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 asserts that the most sustainable way to build peace is to recognize and invest in young people as equal partners in peace processes.** Consequently, to increase the chances of resolving the Anglophone conflict, young people's participation in peace building and conflict resolution is inevitable and should be prioritized.

In relation to youth involvement in the context of the MND, the Anglophone Crisis has exposed the need for youth participation in dialogues at community or grassroots level. Young people should develop the culture of mobilising their peers from different walks of life to dialogue about the issues they face on a daily basis and establish common solutions. This includes for example, a dialogue-based, participatory approach to ensure the resumption of and restoration of absolute calm in schools. Such initiatives constitute an enticing way of making young people peace ambassadors, both as teachers, students and community leaders. **Local Youth Corner** for example, has been facilitating improbable dialogue with young people towards encouraging youth expression on diverse issues and the result has proven that young people should be at the forefront of these conversations through an inclusive bottom top process .





NFOR VICTORINE L. AMBE

Victorine is a Civil Society Actor, founder and Executive Director of Cornerstone Enrichment Services (CES) since September 2017.

She is certified in *Peace, Conflict and International Relations* (PAID-WA); trained in *Prevention, Release and Reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups* (Folke Bernadotte Academy / Barcelona International Peace Center); *Post Conflict Reconstruction and Stabilization* (Addis Ababa African Union); *Advanced Stabilization and Reintegration (ASR), Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)* (KAIPTC, Accra Ghana.). She is also an accredited member of *FemWise-Africa, Peace and Security Department (PSD), African Union Commission*.

She is also the Deputy Secretary General for MDDT Cameroon and Project Coordinator for the North West Region. Through her projects, in partnership with national and international bodies, she has rehabilitated, demobilized and reintegrated over 400 youths including ex-separatists fighters in the North West region.

INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION, PROTECTION, PREVENTION AND PARTNERSHIPS IN SECURING PEACE

This article aims at proposing sustainable solutions to the Anglophone Crisis with a focus on the United Nations' Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) on Youth Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda 2250 of December 9, 2015, which recognizes and affirms the role youths, amongst other parties, play in the prevention and provision of lasting solutions towards peacebuilding efforts in conflict areas. Cameroon, being a member state of the UNSCR, has not been able to implement the resolutions towards resolving the Anglophone Crisis. It should be noted that the centralist system of governance in Cameroon has been one of the reasons why this crisis has lasted for more than six years and is still counting. As such, for positive change and sustainable solutions to thrive, both the Cameroon government and non-state actors, particularly the armed groups, should be able to recognize and respect the YPS Agenda 2250 as proposed below.

Participation: Youths are more often at the center of every conflict and can be used positively or negatively in a conflict. As such, national, regional, and international institutions and mechanisms, in a bid to resolve the Anglophone crisis, should adopt the YPS agenda point for meaningful participation of youths in peace processes. The national development plan should include the participation of youth at all levels. MDDT, in its peace projects, has involved the meaningful participation of youths in sports, music, and cultural dance competitions for peace and social cohesion. Participation by youth in peace activities is a sure way to effectively bring peace to affected communities.

Protection: The protection of youth during conflicts is a very important way to resolve the Anglophone crisis. Civilian protection is primordial in every conflict situation. Peace projects should advocate for civilian protection, especially for the youth, at every stage. Many youths have been killed, detained, tortured, and prosecuted unjustly during this crisis. These unfortunate circumstances have further encouraged violent radicalism. The rate of human rights abuses has been unprecedented in the two Anglophone regions, with both government forces and separatist fighters persisting in gross violations of the rights to life, freedom of speech, education, etc. If national and international peace

institutions include protection in their activities, then it will go a long way toward dissipating the crisis. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in collaboration with civil society organizations and human rights defenders, is constantly advocating and creating awareness about civilian protection and the right to security. If these actors can implement and enforce actions towards sanctioning the perpetrators of these acts, the youthful population would be protected, and of course, having the youth involved in the advocacy on civilian protection in the various communities would help usher in lasting peace. MDDT has again carried out advocacy campaigns for civilian protection.

Prevention: The government should facilitate an inclusive and enabling environment in which youth actors from different backgrounds are recognized and provided with adequate support to implement violence prevention activities and support social cohesion. This should entail enacting youth-centered policies that will positively contribute to their peacebuilding efforts, including social and economic development. Such policies must support projects designed to grow local economies, and provide youth employment opportunities and vocational training, foster education, promote youth entrepreneurship, and encourage constructive political engagement. Peace actors should be encouraged to carry out youth peace activities to prevent violence by and among youths.

Partnerships: Youth being the main perpetrators of violence, the vital role of peacebuilding actors in addressing the conditions and factors leading to the rise of radicalization, violence, and violent extremism is to partner with youth groups in all conflict communities to facilitate peacebuilding activities. In the context of the Anglophone crisis, the religious, cultural, and educational youth groups of the conflict regions should be engaged by all peace and development actors on the ground. As such, youths will collectively create the necessary awareness to ensure full participation of all youths in peace building and development processes. Through this, peace will be very possible and sustainable, as it will further promote social cohesion in the Anglophone regions.

Disengagement and reintegration: Actors involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) are encouraged to consider the needs of youths affected by armed conflict. Apart from creating disarmament and rehabilitation centers for the safety of ex-fighters, youth-led organizations can accompany such initiatives by offering training in skills that can help the youths who so desire to reintegrate themselves in society, thereby ensuring peace and sustainable development. This is a delicate group of people that must be handled with care because they can end up worse than before if their expectations and needs are not properly addressed. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime, in partnership with local NGOs and youth-led organizations, provides quality education on personality and life skills to vulnerable youths, especially ex-fighters who have been involved in drug addiction and substance abuse, personality disorders, etc., or are in need of mental health and psychosocial support. This would further help them to build self-awareness, which would enhance their personal development and their ability to contribute to the growth of the community in peace and love for humanity.

Conclusively, it is important to note that whether we like it or not, if the youth are neglected in peace processes, sustainable peace will remain an illusion in the context of the Anglophone crisis. Youth are the backbone of every community and should be put at the forefront for better results. Youth can make or mar any peace process initiated by well-intentioned actors if they are not involved.



**CORNERSTONE ENRICHMENT SERVICES
(CES)**

INTENSIFYING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AS A PREREQUISITE FOR PUBLIC TRUST AND MOTIVATOR FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good governance is essential for peace, unity, and progress in any society. It involves the effective and efficient management of resources, policies, and institutions for the betterment of citizens. When governance is good, it shall promote social justice, accountability, transparency, and the rule of law. Good governance also helps reduce corruption and enhances public trust in government institutions. This, in turn, fosters economic growth, social stability, and the overall wellbeing of citizens. With good governance, there is greater inclusivity and participation, which strengthens the democratic process and ensures that the voice of the people is heard.

In contrast, poor governance leads to social unrest, economic instability, and political crisis. It undermines the legitimacy of government institutions and breeds a culture of mistrust, fear, and division. This, in turn, can lead to conflict, as seen in the crisis zones in Cameroon, violence, and even war. Therefore, good governance is crucial for peace, unity, and progress. With the advent of the Anglophone Crisis, the government must wake up from slumber, start to genuinely prioritize the needs of their citizens, and work to build an inclusive and equitable society. They must be transparent and accountable in their actions and ensure that institutions are independent and free from corruption. When these principles are in place, the benefits are felt by all citizens, and society can thrive.

Corruption is a daily reality in Cameroon. There is no sector that is neither affected nor infected: the military, tax and customs, justice, national education, health services, public transport, public markets, the media, the electoral service, the civil service, and the private sector. Basically, all public and para-public activities, the relationship between the administration and individuals, and between individuals themselves are characterized by this malevolent practice.

Progressively, the government of Cameroon has taken some steps to address the problem of corruption in the country. The arrest and prosecution of several top officials for embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds is exemplary, though seemingly marred by socio-political and socio-cultural controversies. Despite such

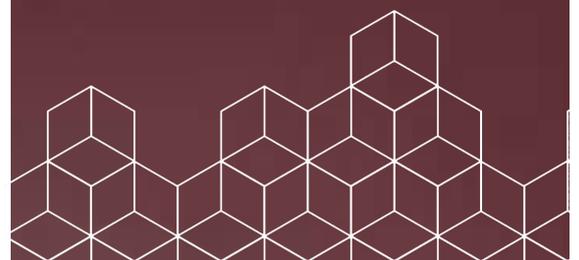


NDI NANCY SAIBOH

NDI Nancy Saiboh is the Founder/ CEO of Actions for Development and Empowerment (ADE), a non-profit, grassroots, and youth-driven organization founded with the aim of empowering young people to act around issues that affect their lives and play an active role in the development process thereby creating positive change in their communities and Africa at large.

She doubles as the Country Coordinator for Follow The Money - Cameroon, an institution that seeks to ensure improved and increased accountability in the government procurement process, as well as ensure accountability for public finance meant for Community and Social Development.

NDI Nancy Saiboh is a social justice advocate with over nine years of experience in community outreach and organizing. She is particularly interested in public accountability and the use of law to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of citizens, with a priority for youths, women and vulnerable communities.



deterrent measures, corruption in Cameroon remains rampant, and the perception of widespread impunity has caused most Cameroonians to be highly skeptical of the government's anti-corruption campaign. The state of corruption remains alarming in Cameroon despite an improved score of two points in the 2021 ranking of the Corruption Perceptions Index published by Transparency International.

Through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), School Tour, and Follow the Money initiatives, Actions for Development and Empowerment (ADE) has led community grassroots campaigns aimed at promoting transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and skill-building. ADE has equally networked with other stakeholders who share her goal of strengthening accountability, the rule of law, and access to justice for all. ADE is guided in her projects

and activities by SDG No. 16, which aims at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.





DOPGIMA STELLA ETEKI NJOH

Dopgima Stella Eteki Njoh has over 15 years' experience in community development, particularly women's empowerment and gender issues in Cameroon. With a master's in Women and Development from Ewha Woman's University, South Korea, she is a gender expert and activist in the South West Region of Cameroon.

She is working with the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family as Director of the Women Empowerment and Family Center, Buea. She is in charge of running the centre and coordinating all its activities which are geared towards the holistic Empowerment of women with emphasis on Economic Empowerment.

She is also the Founder and CEO of a community organization called **Centre for Youth and Family Empowerment (CEYOFE)**. She is a 2016 Mandela Washington fellow and is serving as the Vice President of the Alumni Association.

ACCENTUATING PEACE THROUGH YOUTH PRIORITIZATION AND ENGAGEMENT

If only we could pick up the pieces of their lives, we would mend them together. Young people are often among the most affected by conflict, but to engage with them solely as victims or perpetrators of war obscures the vital role they play in peacebuilding. Since 2016, the North-West and South-West regions have suffered immeasurably from the effects of the crisis raging in these two regions. By now, one would have predicted the crisis would be resolved, but here we are today, six years gone and counting, and seemingly still far from a welcome end or a lasting solution to the crisis.

Solutions have been proposed, recommendations affirmed, and measures implemented, but at the center of action, the youth have never really been a significant part of the process. Others have represented, spoken, and decided for them. If we agree that the youth are the future of tomorrow and that the youth are the ones who may be manipulated in one way or another to act the way they have been doing in the recent past, then the approach should be reviewed to start focusing on the youth. In order to do this, every aspect of life, from the sociocultural and economic to the sociopolitical, has to be taken into consideration. As a solution to the present crisis, we need the full participation of youths in key decision spaces through substantive representation, strategic advocacy, policy lobbying, and active youth civic engagement. There is a great necessity for peace education in schools, churches, and meeting houses. Youth should derive multiple means of advocating for peace through arts and entertainment as well as sporting activities.

Initiatives must be implemented to deconstruct violent behavior in children and youths through sensitization campaigns in the most affected communities. The centers for rehabilitating de-radicalized youths have to do better in terms of capacity building and reintegration into society. *What and how effective are the programs that truly exist in these centers to empower the youth, assure purpose in their lives, train them gainfully with the possibility of some little start-up support, and guarantee their (social) reintegration into society?*



Considering the measures being implemented as fallouts from the Major National Dialogue (MND), we must also adopt and promote a mental and spiritual ideology that embodies a positive mindset and a proactive attitude towards advocating for peace and harmony. Youth need counseling services, especially those who are ready to quit radicalism and extremism. Pastors, priests, counselors, etc. should design and engage in activities that are appealing to youths, thereby helping them reach out to these youths.

Emphasis must be placed on the fact that youths must be economically empowered so that they can take proper care of themselves. With economic empowerment comes a sense of independence and responsibility. This has actually been my goal in the multiple projects that I have implemented in my community.

The first project, **EMPOWERHER**, had as its primary objective to promote female entrepreneurs and economic advancement by supporting 60 internally displaced girls in learning and enhancing professional life skills in sewing, fashion designing,

and hair dressing, among other standard income-generating activities.

The second project equally targeted the promotion of women's and youth's empowerment through skills training towards economic support and self-reliance in Buea. This project focused on capacity building for women and youth who were socially and economically disadvantaged, especially in the context of the ongoing Anglophone crisis. This program, which is ongoing, seeks to assist these women and youths in improving their livelihoods through skills training and acquisition in poultry farming, culinary income-generating activities, and the provision of startup kits (50 chicks each).

To conclude, peace is essential to controlling the evils that damage our society, yet peace requires a combination of life-enabling and life-enhancing endeavors to stand a proper chance.





Jean Marc AFESI MBAFOR

Jean Marc Afesi Mbafor is a young and dynamic youth leader who is considered a role model for youths in the sphere of governance.

He has been serving as the National President of Cameroon National Youth Council (CYNC) this youth-focused institution since 2013. In this role, he has led numerous youth-focused and youth-driven initiatives to enhance youth involvement and participation in governance processes and economic development programs.

On March 15, 2017, he was appointed as a member of **National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multi-Culturalism** by the President of the Republic - an initiative founded in the wake of the Anglophone Crisis.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NORTH WEST AND SOUTH WEST REGIONS: RELEVANT ELEMENTS FOR PEACE AND UNITY

Despite the years of endless hostilities and suffering experienced in the North West (NW) and South West (SW) regions since the escalation of the Anglophone Crisis, the people of these two regions are known to be people of great resilience who believe in the values of peace, tolerance, and mutual acceptance. They are known to be hospitable people who pursue happiness and believe in the virtues of sharing and hospitality.

Notwithstanding other initiatives being implemented and aimed at redressing the conflict in the two English-speaking regions, particularly those resulting from the 2019 Major National Dialogue, the President of the Republic, H.E. Paul Biya, in a bid to materialize his commitment to the reconstruction of the two restive regions, has instructed the creation of the committee for the reconstruction of the North-West and South-West regions.

Considering the socio-political evolution of Cameroon that is deeply rooted in the nation's socio-cultural foundation and considering the issues tabled at the Major National Dialogue as contributing factors to the onset of the Anglophone crisis, the reconstruction project of the North-West and South-West regions has been greatly acclaimed as a development-and-peace-oriented initiative. Like the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multi-Culturalism founded in January 2017, this reconstruction initiative seeks to boost socio-economic development and foster a strong sense of equality towards maintaining peace, consolidating national unity, and enhancing considerations for harmonious co-existence amongst all Cameroonians.

It is thus in a bid to capitalize on this reconstruction initiative, driven by the need to revive the socio-cultural prowess of the two regions as well as the values that characterize their peoples, that the Make Bamenda/Buea Great Again (MBBGA) movement was initiated. The MBBGA movement is an initiative driven by a group of young Cameroonians of the NW and SW regions whose objective is to contribute to bringing lasting peace to the regions by promoting socio-cultural activities and, as the name goes, to make the regions great again.

It seeks to change the narrative that has prevailed over the past years in the regions and that has greatly affected the mindsets of not just the local population but beyond. The movement has therefore put in place different

programs to mobilize the youths of the NW and SW regions around values of peacebuilding, tolerance, and participatory development. Through its activities of creative/designed thinking, art and craft, etc., it seeks to influence a mind shift in the population, specifically the youthful population, by motivating them to think of themselves and their localities differently, thus securing their full participation in the reconstruction process.

In other words, the movement hopes to give a new perspective by engaging principally the local populations, indigenes of the NW and SW regions of Cameroon, home and abroad, and all well-meaning Cameroonians in a rebranding operation of the two affected regions based on two key mechanisms:

Creative arts and designed thinking activities

- This includes TV and radio talk shows baptized "**The MBBGA TalkShow**", a platform for real psychosocial, moral, and intellectual rebranding and reconstruction of our regions. This involves the production and diffusion of short videos or videograms on the theme "Make Bamenda/Buea Great Again";
- Launching a creative thinking and writing competition for the best essay, best short story,

best painting or drawing, best poem, and best art or craft work;

All on the theme "Make Bamenda/Buea Great Again"

- Competition on the best community-based projects designed by local groups (youth, women, associations) addressing a specific need within the community;
- Weekly radio and TV talk show baptized "The MBBGA Talkshow." We need to go back to where it started.

It started in our minds. Therefore, it must be about the mindset. It was a destruction of the hearts and minds, which naturally ensued in a destruction of our traditions, cultures, cultural heritage, societies, and finally all forms of material destruction, i.e., destruction of property, schools, bridges, hospitals, and ultimately lives;

Our reconstruction should therefore start with the hearts and minds, which, when crystalized, will be the bedrock, yielding the building blocks needed to rebuild our lives, our homes, our villages, our societies, and our greatness. There must be a structured and laser-focused effort towards the mental reconditioning of our population, particularly the youth.



ESTABLISHING SAFE SPACES TO SERVE AS AVENUES FOR YOUTH EXPRESSION AND THE PROMOTION OF PEACE

It only gets worse and deeper as time goes on. For more than 5 years now, our nation has been swimming in the bloody conflict of the Anglophone regions, with countless deaths and numerous displaced people. We cannot overemphasize the involvement of young people as both perpetrators and victims of the crisis. But if we look at the good side of the matter, these same young people can be the drivers of a long-lasting solution to this crisis.

Young people are key agents in peacebuilding, especially those who have been victims or part of a conflict. They have a clear vision of what a disaster has been and what they want peace to be like, and they also have the drive to work towards the realization of those objectives.

Young people have proven that they can actually play these roles by actively engaging in peacebuilding activities. The youth need to be included in peacebuilding activities and processes, as their energies will be redirected to the implementation of constructive peace projects. Through formal and informal education, young people can be included in peacebuilding activities.

The greatest issue young people are facing right now is fear. A lot of people have the zeal to lead peace activities, but they are scared for their lives. But if we can create safe spaces and platforms where young people can securely and freely address the matter at hand and send in their contributions to peace, then we will be amazed at how much will be contributed. Governments should encourage the coalition of youth associations rather than always tagging them as "amba boys". The government should invest time and resources in youth gatherings on peacebuilding and encourage the participation of young people in all peace processes where the government, civil society, and international community are involved.

YALDA Cameroon has embarked on a journey of mindset change for young people since 2016, empowering them to take action in peace processes and make their voices heard through safe spaces. Through these, young people have been able to maximize the use of

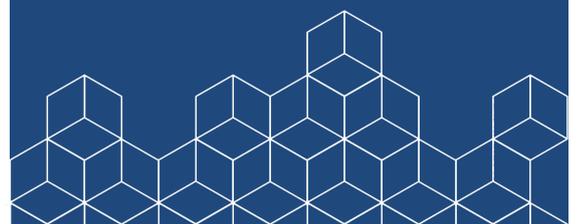


TCHAKOUNTE YIMGA Ines

Yimga Tchakounte is a project manager with over 7 years of experience in civil society initiatives centred mostly on refugee relief actions and youth engagement in civic education and democratic processes.

Currently, Yimga is serving as the Executive Director at the **Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Arica (YALDA Cameroon)**. In this capacity, she engages in projects that focus on leveraging youth potential in civic development and humanitarian work, and building resilience among youth leaders.

She is also a **Mandela Washington - Fellow (MWF 2022)** and currently serves as the Assistant Secretary General of the MWF Cameroon Association.



social media to promote peace, thereby building a ripple effect as they directly reach out to their peers through online peace webinars and sensitization campaigns in secondary schools.



Collaborative Governance as an Alternative Pathway to Peace in Cameroon

Peace is never the result of mere chance; it is the result of forces working together. This article focuses on strengthening collaborative engagement, especially among stakeholders within the state and the third sector, as a pathway to securing peace in the search for lasting solutions to the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon. Such collaborative engagement holds the potential to generate synergies and build constituencies that supersede the countervailing forces that are fueling the conflict in the Anglophone regions. The proposal is divided into three parts. First, it gives a brief overview of the context, underscoring the need for collaboration. Secondly, it presents a diagnosis of the state of participatory governance in the country and, thirdly, offers a few proposals on the way forward for collaborative peacebuilding.

Underpinnings of a collaborative approach to governance

The UNDP defines good governance as governing systems that are capable, responsive, inclusive, and transparent. The notion of inclusivity is underscored in international and national frameworks. In Article 20, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the will of the people as the basis of the authority of government and that citizens have the right to participate in and access public services. The Paris Declaration of 2005 and the follow-up forum in Accra in 2008 stressed the inclusion of non-state actors in the design and implementation of development programs. The African Union Agenda 2063, dubbed "Africa We Want," incorporates the full participation of citizens for its implementation, particularly with regard to its "aspiration 3," which stresses that **"Africa should be a continent where institutions are at the service of people and citizens provide and actively participate in social, economic, and policy development as well as management."**

At the national level, the Constitution, Vision 2035, the SND 30 (Stratégie Nationale de Développement 2020-2030), the 2019 Code on decentralization (see art. 40 and 41), the freedom laws of 1990 and 1999, etc. explicitly guarantee, de jure, citizens' rights to participate in government.

In the context of the Anglophone conflicts, two trends

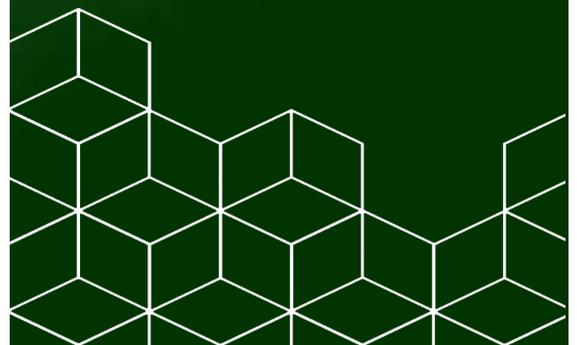


ATEKI SETA Caxton

Ateki Seta Caxton heads one of Cameroon's foremost youth think-tanks on democratic governance and citizens' participation - the **Network for Solidarity, Empowerment and Transformation for All (NewSETA)**. NewSETA is a youth non-profit, promoting democratic governance and youth participation in Cameroon through research, capacity development and policy advocacy.

NewSETA runs an annual training series known as REPAIR (**Rebuilding Peace through Actions with Inclusive Reach**) which brings young thought leaders from the 10 regions of Cameroon and from Africa to build skills, foster awareness and reinforce values on democracy, peace and youth participation.

As the Executive Director of NewSETA, Ateki is also focused on driving activities and initiatives that encourage collaboration and synergies amongst state and non-state actors for the ultimate benefit of youths.



underscore the need for collaboration. Firstly, the mounting turmoil in the regions is compounded by burgeoning resource pressures, leading to inefficiencies in tackling the full range of existing humanitarian and infrastructure problems. These challenges have profound implications for public service delivery as, very often, inefficiencies in the complexity of the conflict generate a lack of trust in public institutions and incentivize a search for alternatives. Secondly, the views of public officials about how to manage these emerging problems increasingly compete with those of think tanks, humanitarian workers, concerned citizens, and advocacy organizations, commonly with first-hand experiences of the challenges on the ground.

Although there are instances of cooperation, Cameroon's predominant institutional structure is authority-based, with infrequent collaborative activity between the state and civil society actors. Relations between state and civil society actors may be considered therapeutic or consultative at best. So what accounts for this?

The State of Participatory Governance in Cameroon

While citizen engagement is recognized de jure, as referenced above, there is a huge dichotomy in practice. The principle of participation is undermined by several factors, including: the absence of a civil society development policy; the difficulty of accessing information on the management of public affairs; apathy on the part of citizens; the non-institutionalization of participation; insufficient capacity among civil society organizations; and the absence of a law governing the social economy. The consequences are evident: weak citizen engagement and a participatory environment; the monolithic nature of public choices; waning synergies and social capital; and the collaborative advantage. There is a need for the government to ensure that citizens contribute effectively and responsibly to peace and development.

Notwithstanding the challenges recognized above, one must acknowledge that there are practical difficulties being encountered in the English-speaking regions that render collaboration difficult. While insecurity itself is a major

challenge, geographic challenges are also important. In the humanitarian care environment, where stakeholders are overwhelmed by resource scarcity, one partner needing to collaborate with multiple partners across a wide geographic area requires a great investment. Yes, indeed, capacity asymmetries do exist between CSOs and the state. In such an environment, collaboration is difficult to initiate, and the state may rather take a therapeutic approach towards partners working in the field to address solutions. In this case, collaboration may be tokenistic in form. Limited resources and the unstable nature of CSO sector funding have the high potential to weaken the operational effectiveness of any collaborative engagements in the long run in the event of funding shortfalls. Even in the case of stable funding, the tendencies toward upward accountability and a lack of common practices and measurement metrics amongst actors and donors pose a problem for accountability in collaboration.

Nevertheless, collaboration is about improving the ratio of benefits to costs of government action, and I believe that the more it is harnessed, the more social capital we could generate and the more we could draw from the collaborative advantage.

How can we harness collaborative governance for peace in Cameroon?

Inclusive peacebuilding processes have helped to bring peace talks into the public sphere, enabling a wider range of people to contribute suggestions and follow the negotiations. With greater transparency, the agreements reached have tended to be imbued with greater legitimacy. In many cases, the public was better able to understand and potentially accept the reasons for the compromises reached. Furthermore, these inclusive processes helped establish the value of democratic processes as a legitimate response to conflict. With broader public acceptance of the process and greater buy-in to potential agreements from a range of political and social groups, peace has proved more durable in many cases.

Enlisting the large majority of vital forces in the North West and South West in collaborative

efforts that define priorities, implement, and evaluate programs in a consensus-oriented manner has the potential to generate compromise and public buy-in for policies. It also has the potential to build up social capital, accumulate resources, and breakdown silo engagements, which often result in conflicts of interest and duplication of services. In doing so, the status and resources of civil society could be strengthened and participatory processes intensified.

Civil society could amplify its efforts in the provision of resources and social services and in the fight against poverty. It could harness its moral authority to safeguard and promote the national cultural heritage, promote common values, and overwhelm centrifugal forces. It could do much more, with the caveat that CSO actors do not become institutionalized and fail to bring the 'outsider' perspectives of their clients. Participation and social mobilization are the crucibles for the integration of productive forces and democratization in the context of decentralization.

Buttressing such collaboration would entail intensifying dialogue between the state and civil society (such as the CSO-state dialogues organized by NewSETA) and strengthening the capacities of civil society actors. These dialogues should ideally lead to the development of a CSO compact (an engagement and development strategy for CSOs) and a third sector institution that serves as a permanent platform for dialogue and engagement between the state and non-state stakeholders in the quest to achieve peace.

It has to be acknowledged that mere collaborative governance is not enough; it has to be pro-people and pro-active. Good governance puts people at the center of the development process. Its goal is to achieve tangible results that transform the lives of ordinary people. Humanitarian challenges are most often the result of violations of international humanitarian law, including failure to distinguish between civilians and combatants at all times, failure to respect the prohibitions on attacks on civilians, indiscriminate attacks, and the spread of terror

among the civilian population. Internal displacements and the resulting humanitarian crisis often occur in the context of complex emergencies characterized by partial or total state collapse. Responding to such a crisis usually requires a multi-dimensional response (humanitarian, human rights, development, security, or political) and the combined efforts of various actors at national, regional, and international levels.

The scale and scope of such a crisis exceed the mandate or capacity of any single agency or organization and require the involvement of a range of humanitarian, human rights, and development actors, both within and beyond the state system. Thus, activities in support of peace require a joint collaborative effort, for which coordination mechanisms exist. In this light, there is an urgent need to bring all forces together to find a means to end the conflict without recourse to further violence. Perhaps, on a very ambitious note, prioritizing the collaborative approach in this case may yield greater dividends for peace in Cameroon.



"Africa should be a continent where institutions are at the service of people, and citizens provide and actively participate in social, economic, and policy development as well as management."





BALKY BUBA

Balky Buba hails from the Mbororo pastoralist community of the North West Region of Cameroon. She is a social worker, founder and president of Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development (IPSD-Cameroon).

She is certified in conflict analysis, conflict negotiation and management and interfaith conflict resolution from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP 2012). She has worked on many peace building projects, organized interfaith dialogues to promote peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution in many parts of Cameroon.

She worked as facilitator with **IDP-Goods**, sensitizing hundreds of youths on peace building, de-radicalization, and countering violent extremism, and providing psychosocial support for internally displaced women and children in the Far North Region of Cameroon (2016-2018). She worked with HOFNA on **Women and Peace Building**, was part of the organizing team of the **National Conference on Gender based Violence and UNSCR 1325** that brought together more than 100 women from the 10 Regions of Cameroon in December 2020.

SUPPORTING PREVENTION INITIATIVES AGAINST YOUTH RADICALIZATION

Inclusive dialogue is one of the key solutions to the ongoing Anglophone crisis. This is because this dialogue will ensure that the voices of all stakeholders are heard and no one is left behind. There is a need to listen to the government, the grassroots' population, the women, the youth, the indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, civil society organizations, armed groups, etc. because everyone has something to say. An inclusive dialogue will enhance reconciliation among one another and foster peace. I appreciate the efforts of the Cameroonian government for initiating and holding the Major National Dialogue in 2019 and whose recommendations are being gradually implemented. Though criticized by some, this was a milestone for meaningful consultation and dialogue with different stakeholders to end the Anglophone Crisis, but more needs to be done and the slow pace of the implementation of the recommendations has not helped matters. Three years after the Major National Dialogue, the crisis is still ongoing.

As **Mandela Washington Fellows**, we have carried out interfaith dialogues in towns and communities with young people from diverse religious backgrounds in order to prevent interfaith conflicts, promote living together, and foster social cohesion for peace.

De-radicalizing youth and children is very important. With the ongoing violence, youth are radicalized, children are victims of violence, and violence has become a normal way of life. Many, especially children, are traumatized; they are often forgotten when it comes to psychosocial support, and as they grow up with the trauma, they are gradually becoming radicalized. Thus, there is a need to increase de-radicalization programs and psychosocial support services for children and youth, including internally displaced children, youth, and women.

With IDP-Goods, we carried out de-radicalization programs for children and youth in the Boko Haram-affected Far North Region. We carried out sensitization campaigns in secondary schools and created peace clubs in the schools. We had peace ambassadors who became champions in the fight against violent extremism. We had de-radicalization programs with

children through the arts and paintings; we offered psychosocial support to children who were growing up with the spirit of vengeance and radical ideas. We supported some of the children by providing them with didactic materials for their education so that they can be citizens and actors who will contribute to the development of our nation as we move towards emergence.

The Cameroon government has put in place the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) Commission, which is a laudable initiative that will help in the behavior change of radicalized young people who are ex-combatants to embrace civilian life. This process will help them drop their arms and embrace a better and more meaningful life. But more has to be done; there is a need for constant sensitization to be carried out, especially at the grass-roots level, in order to encourage young combatants to drop their weapons and join the DDR. There is a need to showcase examples of success stories of ex-combatants who joined the DDR; this will encourage others to come out of the bushes.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT: A CATALYST FOR RADICALISM

The Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon has been ongoing since 2016 and has had devastating effects on the country's economy and social fabric. The crisis arose as a result of long-standing grievances from the English-speaking regions of Cameroon. While the crisis has been fueled by political and cultural differences, youth unemployment and entrepreneurship have also played a significant role in exacerbating the crisis.

Youth unemployment is a major problem in Cameroon, particularly in regions on crisis. According to the International Labour Organization, the youth unemployment rate in Cameroon is around 12%, but this figure is likely to be much higher in the regions in crisis. The lack of job opportunities has left many young people feeling frustrated and disillusioned, with little hope for the future.



DALIWA Joseph

Daliwa Joseph is the President of **Mandela Washington Fellows Cameroon Association** and Executive Director of **Action for Youth and Environment**, a youth-led organization that intervenes in environmental protection, tourism, sustainable energy, quality education, and gender equality in the Northern regions of Cameroon.

He is a Ph.D. scholar at the University of Columbia-Missouri, under the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship and has served as Regional Advisory Board member of the **Mandela Washington Fellowship**, representing Cameroon and Chad.

He has trained thousands of jobless youth, students, unemployed women, and girls in generating income activities and various domains.

In 2019, he won a Gold Price award, emerging first at an innovation competition in Doha, Qatar, and has obtained several grants including the AIEF (2018), the Tony Elumelu Foundation for entrepreneurs (2019), World Connect (2019), Reciprocal Exchange (2019), and the LINC grant in 2020.



This frustration has fueled protests and violence in the Anglophone regions, as young people seek to express their dissatisfaction with the government.

Entrepreneurship has been touted as a potential solution to the problem of youth unemployment in Cameroon. However, the challenges facing entrepreneurs in the Anglophone regions are significant. The ongoing conflict has made it difficult for businesses to operate, with many entrepreneurs facing threats and intimidation from armed groups. The lack of infrastructure and access to finance has also been a major challenge, making it difficult for young people to start and grow businesses.

Despite these challenges, there are some inspiring examples of young entrepreneurs who are making a difference in the Anglophone regions. One such example is Agro-Hub, a social enterprise founded by two young entrepreneurs, Nchang Christian and Ndzi Eugene. Agro-Hub works with smallholder farmers in the Anglophone regions to improve agricultural productivity and connect them with markets.

The enterprise has created jobs for young people and is helping to improve the livelihoods of farmers in the region.

Another example of a successful youth-led initiative in the Anglophone regions is the Cameroon Angels Network. This network brings together young entrepreneurs and investors to support the growth of startups in Cameroon. The network has already invested in several startups, including one that is developing a mobile app to help farmers in the Anglophone regions access information about weather patterns and market prices.

While these initiatives are inspiring, they are not enough to solve the problem of youth unemployment in the Anglophone regions. The conflict must be resolved to create a more stable environment for businesses to operate. The government must also do more to support entrepreneurship, by providing access to finance and creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. Finally, there must be a concerted effort to address the underlying challenges.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM FOR PEACE

PALAIS DE CONGRES – 27TH – 28TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Cameroon is gradually losing its fame as a peaceful country in Africa to the Anglophone crisis, which is chocking the inalienable rights to security, shelter, health, life, political participation, freedom of expression, the right to a fair trial, and many more. The Boko Haram crisis and the Anglophone crisis over the last decade have protracted gross human rights abuses and violations, thousands of deaths, thousands of internally displaced persons, destruction of property, school dropouts, and recruitment of youth to armed groups.

It is to this effect that MDDT Cameroon, in collaboration with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), USA, has, for the last four years, been contributing its quota to

consolidating peace and reducing youth violence in the Republic of Cameroon through a project titled "**Promoting Youth Advocacy and Reducing Youth Radicalization in the Anglophone Regions of Cameroon**". This project aims at mobilizing youth to advocate for dialogue, a ceasefire, and a peaceful resolution of the Anglophone crisis.

Over the last four years, MDDT has created civic clubs in 80 schools, 60 civic hubs in 40 hotspot communities, ran an online campaign (**Let Dialogue Lead**) reaching out to more than 1 million social users, and organized three round table conferences with state agencies, lawmakers, and civil society in Yaoundé, Douala and Buea.

Going forward, an important component of this project is the organization of a **National Youth Forum for Peace**, which shall be a 2-day event that will gather youth leaders, civil society, government, and relevant stakeholders to share best practices towards reducing radicalization and to recommend possible solutions for a peaceful resolution of the Anglophone Crisis in Yaoundé.

General Objective: To mobilize youth leaders to advocate for non-violence and peace in Cameroon; to amplify youth actions in reducing youth radicalization and violence in the Republic of Cameroon.

Specific Objectives:

1. To organize a National Youth Forum for Peace with 1000 youth leaders.
2. To create an exchange platform with government and stakeholders on reducing radicalization in the conflict regions of Cameroon.
3. To create a network of youth civil society organizations, student leaders, and community youth leaders to harmonize efforts towards countering youth violence and radicalization in Cameroon.
4. To develop a recommendation paper on reducing youth radicalization in Cameroon.

PROJECT EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Expected Outcome 1: An established network of Youth CSOs for the fight against youth radicalization and youth violence in Cameroon.

Expected Outcome 2: A recommendation paper on "Promoting Youth Advocacy and Reducing Youth Radicalization in Cameroon".

Expected Outcome 3: 100 youths trained on modern advocacy strategies and innovative ways of countering youth violence and radicalization. 1000 youths are sensitized and deterred from acts of violence.

NYFP
NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM FOR PEACE
Symposium

ENGAGING YOUTH LEADERS, CIVIL SOCIETY, GOVERNMENT AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS TO SHARE BEST PRACTICES TOWARDS REDUCING YOUTH RADICALIZATION AND TO RECOMMEND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE ANGLOPHONE CRISIS.

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***“We have the means
and the capacity to deal
with our problems, if
only we can find the
political will.”***

Kofi Annan

(UN Secretary General, 1997 –2006)



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