



# Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés du Cameroun



## Cameroon National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms



# 5TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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# PANEL 5: COOPERATION AT COUNTRY LEVEL, INCLUDING FOLLOW UP TO UN AND RHRMS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS.

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# COOPERATION AT COUNTRY LEVEL, INCLUDING FOLLOW UP TO UN AND RHRMS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS



The State of Cameroon has opted for a participatory approach in the implementation and follow up of decisions and recommendations of UN and RHRMs.

We shall briefly share **the practices, lessons learnt, challenges and also propose new forms of co-operation.**

# COOPERATION AT COUNTRY LEVEL, INCLUDING FOLLOW UP TO UN AND RHRMS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS



## A. PRACTICES

The best practices include the use of National Committees; the involvement of Civil Society, Human Rights Defenders and United Nations Agencies.

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## 1. National Committees

- ▶ a permanent committee coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office charged with the follow up of decisions and recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ It consists of ministerial departments and other state institutions.

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## 1. National Committees

- ▶ a Commission on the rights of the child which works to implement the national policy on the protection of children.
- ▶ an inter-ministerial committee for the supervision of the prevention and fight against traffic in persons. A meeting was held on 19 August 2012 to finalize the guidelines for the implementation of the action plan of the committee.

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## 1. National Committees

- ▶ The supervisory committee for the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of human Rights is in the process of being set up.

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## 2. Involvement of CSOs, HRDs and other stakeholders

The involvement of these has greatly enhanced the follow up of decisions and recommendations. Their actions have included:

- ▶ participation in consultations for drafting or improving upon legislation. For example, the Bar Council was consulted for the revision of the Penal Code adopted on 12 July 2016;

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2. **Involvement of CSOs, HRDs and other stakeholders**
  - ▶ contributing to State reports sometimes under the coordination of the NCHRF. On January 12, 2016 a consultation meeting was organized in Yaounde by the NCHRF for CSOs on the 5<sup>th</sup> periodic report to the Committee against Torture.
  - ▶ producing parallel reports and other documents to treaty bodies. The NCHRF sent contributions to the list of issues to be considered during the pre-session working group of the Committee on the rights of the Child which shall take place

On 5 October 2016;

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2. **Involvement of CSOs, HRDs and other stakeholders**
  - ▶ organizing sensitization activities to build capacities. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa organized a workshop in collaboration with the NCHRF on the follow up of the implementation of recommendations and reporting to human rights mechanisms 19–20 August, 2014 in Bamenda.

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## B. LESSONS LEARNT

There are a few lessons to be learnt from cooperation at country level.

### 1. Shifting government position

The government is now softening its position on recommendations and decisions it had previously stood against. For instance during the UPR 2009, some of the recommendations were rejected but were later on accepted following strong advocacy from the NCHRF and some civil society organisations.

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## B. LESSONS LEARNT

### 2. Improved understanding of state efforts

CSOs and HRDs understand efforts made by states in the implementation of decisions and recommendations due to dialogue in consultations.

### 3. A more harmonious approach to societal problems.

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## **c. CHALLENGES**

**the need to preserve sovereignty and public order**

Though the state is softening its position and also embracing other stakeholders, it still insists on sovereignty and public order and so does not open up to decisions and recommendations which may jeopardize these.

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## c. CHALLENGES

### **Insufficient funding.**

Sufficient funding is needed to carry out wide-reaching sensitization, and advocacy; to undertake research into problematic areas and to evaluate action undertaken in the implementation of decisions and recommendations undertaken by the various stakeholders,

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## **D. NEW FORMS OF COOPERATION**

**cooperation in the area of research and development. These areas which are often neglected, are quite determinant to the enjoyment of human rights.**

**Enhanced cooperation with professional bodies and syndicates because these have the potential of contributing to the development of a culture of human rights.**

**Thank you  
for you  
attention .**

