



**CAMEROON YOUTHS AND STUDENTS  
FORUM FOR PEACE  
CAMYOSFOP**

*MOTTO: PEACE – JUSTICE – PROGRESS*

*DEVISE: PAIX – JUSTICE – PROGRES*

**NGO with Special Consultative Status with the UN**

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**CAMYOSFOP Annual Activity Report:**

**January – December 2013**

*Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP)*

*Forum des Jeunes et Elèves (Etudiants) Camerounais pour la Paix (FOJIECP)*

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**Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) is fostering moral and traditional values within the youth milieu.

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CAMYOSFOP Board of Directors

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# **CAMYOSFOP Activity Report: January- December 2013**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2013, CAMYOSFOP carry out numerous activities which included among others, a retreat for CAMYOSFOP's staff, working with 20 secondary schools in Yaoundé on the Human Rights Education (HRE) project. Activities for the HRE project included: cultural manifestations, visit of schools and evaluation of teachers on the human rights education and doing a survey on the education sector reform for youth employment. She also co-organized activities ranging from, a national youth caravan on violence against girls and young women, essay competition and sub-national consultations on the post 2015 agenda. At the international level, CAMYOSFOP carried out Consultations and an Information Session on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The organisation was also invited to participate and contribute in several national and international events.

## **1. CAMYOSFOP Sponsored Activities**

### **1.1. CAMYOSFOP Annual Retreat 2013**

On Saturday the **2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2013**, CAMYOSFOP organized a retreat at its head office in Yaoundé at Carrefour Wada. This retreat aimed at briefing new members on what CAMYOSFOP is all about, inspiring new members on hard work and to unveil CAMYOSFOP's strategic action plan for the year. It was attended by present and former CAMYOSFOP staff, as well as a few members from other organizations.

The program began at 11 am with prayers led by **Ms. KWALAR Ifaana** and later, a rundown of the agenda by the coordinator **Mr. Martin Tsounkeu**. This was closely followed by a welcome address from CAMYOSFOP's Executive Director **Mr. NGALIM Eugene** and an introduction of participants. He talked briefly on what CAMYOSFOP has been doing since its creation in 1999 till date. Mr. Ngalim then continued by presenting CAMYOSFOP's plan of action for the year and encouraged participants to work hard in achieving their professional and personal objectives with some inspiring lines from Jack Canfield's book, *'The Principle of Success.'* Next, **Ms Bari FANSO** presented the CAMYOSFOP's Code of Conduct (CCC). She went further to show how CAMYOSFOP's activities are all linked or related to the African Youth Charter which she later referred to as the CAMYOSFOP bible.

Next on the Agenda was an inspirational talk from **Mr. Ernest EHABE** entitled *'The Power of Vision'*. He encouraged participants never to give up on a vision, to believe in themselves and in what they do. According to him, a vision is a mental picture of what you want to be in future, and to TRUST and OBEY were his key words for success. He gave two main obstacles of fulfilling a vision which were: not

understanding a vision and the cost of a vision. Then he explained several ways of fulfilling one's vision some of which were: be directed by a clear vision, be passionate about it and stay connected to the source. Mr. Ehabé concluded his presentation by stating that vision establishes purpose and releases power. He then congratulated Mr. Ngalim for his hard work and impact on Youths. Mr. Tsounkeu on his part gave a reflection on transforming dreams to reality. He advised that dreams should be shared when we find difficulties executing them.

Looking back at 2012, it was a success in spite of all its limitations. Mr. NGALIM gave a brief account on the accomplishments of CAMYOSFOP as a whole and individually. Miss Bari again presented CAMYOSFOP's annual report which she grouped into CAMYOSFOP activities, national events and international events. Mr. BIKOK Alex also gave a report on reinforcing human rights education in 20 secondary schools in Yaoundé.

There was brain storming on the success and failures of CAMYOSFOP in 2013. Several reasons made it difficult for CAMYOSFOP to attain its goals. These reasons were classified and proposed solutions were reached at. Another presentation of CAMYOSFOPs projects for 2013 was made and Mr. Charles LINJAP gave a detailed explanation on how the project will be executed. Ms Fanzo talked on the Africa/US exchange immersion program in partnership with Harambe Cameroon.

After the coffee break, a reflection on goals setting and commitments was made. Mr. Tsounkeu gave three reasons for goal settings which were:

- To turn visions and dreams to reality.
- To produce results.
- To give room for appraisal.

This led to unveiling of personal work goals and commitments as per each CAMYOSFOP staff. Mr. Martin ended then encouraged the staff to always draw a scope of work and to evaluate their results.

Mr. NGALIM concluded the retreat by giving special thanks to all and urged members to keep to their commitments so as to make CAMYOSFOP a household name in Cameroon.

### 1.2. **The second Human Rights Cultural Manifestation**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Human Rights Cultural Manifestation (HRCM) organized by CAMYOSFOP took place on Wednesday the **16<sup>th</sup> of March, 2013** at Lycee Bilingue d' Application (LBA) in commemoration of the celebration of the international women's day. This human rights manifestation that was celebrated under the women's day theme that centered on *violence against the girl child* saw the participation of 12 out of 20 schools and their teacher coordinators. Also present

were the representatives of the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), the representative of the Chairman of the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedom (NCHRF), the Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP and his members.

The occasion began at 1.15pm with a welcome address from **Mr. NEBA SUH**, Principal of the host school followed by a statement from **Mr. NGALIM Eugene**, Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP. **Mr. MENGUE Martin of MINPROFF** talked on the elimination and prevention of violence on the girl child. The event was officially opened by **Madam KWAMU NANA nee Abunaw Marie**, representative of the Chairman of the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedom (NCHRF). The manifestation was marked by a series of competitive activities such as journalistic reports, dances, a debate, a quiz, and a sketch.

The quiz saw the participation of Lycée d'Étoug-Ébe, Lycée d'Anguissa and Lycée d'Élig-Éssono. Lycée Bilingue de Yaoundé and Montesquieu participated in the Debate. On the other hand, Mevick Bilingual Grammar, E.H.S Obili and Lycée de Nkol-Éton took part in the journalistic report. There were sketches by Lycee de Biyem-Assi, Mario Complex Academy and Lycee General le Clerk. Prizes were awarded to those who came first in these activities. This event was used to hand over trophies to Lycee Elig-Essono that came first in last year's essay competition.

Finally, Solution aux Migrations Clandestine (SMIC) partners with CAMYOSFOP gave a talk on the danger of illegal migration. The program ended with a word from the principal of the host school and a traditional dance.

### **1.3. Process Evaluation Report from Teacher Coordinators of Each School.**

The process evaluation of the human rights education with the teacher coordinators of 20 secondary schools organized on **April 26, 2013** took place at the conference room of the National commission for Human Rights and Freedoms. The methodology of the process evaluation included:

- Strength, weaknesses, opportunities and Threats.
- Interactive focus group discussion.

The following weaknesses were raised:

- Limited time allocation for club activities in some schools.
- Cost sharing between the grant support and school financial input were not clearly defined
- Some teacher coordinators were not committed in the running of club activities in school

- The Non-implementation of senior students in this project rather weekend the overall impact.
- Pedagogic manuals were only available in English.
- Difficulty in keeping students after school due to parental control.

The recommendations raised for amelioration were as follows:

- The pedagogic manuals should be in both French and English.
- All students should be involved in club activities in school except during cultural manifestations where by only selected students in forms 1 to 3 will be allowed to participate.
- Project team members from CAMYOSFOP should visit the schools occasionally to evaluate club activities to ensure the sustainability of the club and an effective execution of the project
- A participation certificate should be awarded to teachers and schools involved.
- News letters should be sold to raise funds for the club.
- Encourage the teacher coordinators to create an association of human rights teachers so as to be able to discuss the issues happening in their various schools and clubs

#### **1.4. The Third Human Rights Cultural Manifestation**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Human Rights Cultural Manifestation (HRCM) organized by CAMYOSFOP took place on the **16 of May 2013** at College de la Retraite in commemoration of the national Unity Day of Cameroon celebrated on May 20. This was the final cultural manifestation to close the Human Rights education year that started in September 2012. The event was attended by all the 20 schools engaged in CAMYOSFOP's Human rights education project. Also present were the representatives of the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF) and the the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedom (NCHRF) as well as representatives of various UN agencies and other stakeholders.

The occasion began at 1.15 pm with a welcome address from the Principal of the host school followed by statements from **Mr. NGALIM Eugene**, Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP. The event was officially opened by **Mme. EVA MAYER ETONGUE** the Representative of the Chairman of the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedom (NCHRF). The manifestation was marked by a series of competitive activities among which were journalistic reports, debates, quizzes and a sketch, which saw the active participation of all the competing schools with the desire to win clearly visible in the efforts they put in. Prices were awarded to those who came first in these activities.

Finally, Solution aux Migrations Clandestine (SMIC) partners with CAMYOSFOP gave a talk on the danger of illegal migration. The program ended with a word from the principal of the host school and a traditional dance as well as an award of certificates of participation to both teacher coordinators and the students of all the human rights clubs for the effort they had put in throughout the academic year. The event ended with a cocktail offered by the Principal of College de la Retrait to all teacher coordinators for the hard work they had put in throughout the year.

### **1.5. Information Session on the Ratification of the Kinshasa Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons by Cameroon**

As part of the European Union Commission funding to the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lake and Horn of Africa (RECSA) on the campaign against the illicit proliferation of small arms in Africa, the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) was contacted by RECSA to organize an advocacy activity in Cameroon on: *the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention in Central Africa for the control of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair and assembly.*

The activity organized by CAMYOSFOP in partnership with RECSA was dubbed; ***'Information Session on the Ratification of the Kinshasa Convention on Small Arms by Cameroon.'*** This information session took place on **July 10, 2013** at the conference hall of Djeuga Palace Hotel in Yaoundé. Participants for this activity were representatives of the civil society. Considering that Cameroon's Parliament had already adopted a bill on the ratification of the convention pending the endorsement of the Head of State for the instrument to be sent to the United Nations, the information session aimed at:

- Raising awareness on the importance of the convention in curbing the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) as prerequisite to the maintenance of peace and security in Cameroon and within its frontiers;
- Brainstorming on the way forward for the implementation, popularization and domestication of the convention within Cameroon and
- Setting up of the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, appointing the Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons and putting in place of a national Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

During this information session members brainstormed and shared experiences on the role of the civil society in combating the illicit proliferation of SALW and advocating for the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention. The session resulted in far reaching recommendations which include:



- CAMYOSFOP and RECSA engagement to organize a stakeholder awareness raising workshop on the ratification and the eventual implementation of the Kinshasa Convention especially the creation of the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCSALW).
- That CSOs working on the issues of peace and security in Cameroon should advocate for the effective implementation of the Kinshasa Convention through all legal avenues possible as well as design a national action plan for Cameroon and ECCAS sub-region on the civil society perspective on the fight against small arms and light weapons.
- Lastly ensure the civil society is represented in the National Commission on small arms & light weapons expected to be created by the government.

The information session ended with words of appreciation from both CAMYOSFOPs NGALIM Eugene and RECSA's **Baiya Angela Nyokabi** who both appreciated the heavy turnout which comprised of numerous international institutions based in Cameroon.

#### **1.6. Meeting with Teacher Coordinators of Human Rights Clubs In 20 Secondary Schools.**

On the **20<sup>th</sup> of November, 2013**, CAMYOSFOP organized a meeting with the teacher coordinators of Human Rights clubs in 20 secondary schools at the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedom. The meeting was scheduled in view of the 2013 Human Right Essay Competition Excellence Award looking at its theme, criteria and chronogram. It began with an opening word from the Executive Director, **Mr. NGALIM Eugene** followed by a progress assessment of the Human Right Clubs activities in schools, coordinated by **Mr. Charles LINJAP**.

The theme for the essay was *“Do children and youths have a right to expression and to participation in their families and communities?”* In regard to the criteria and chronogram, it was agreed that, the essay should be written in 250 words in English or French by members of the Human Rights Clubs in good hand writing. Scripts should be submitted enclosed in an envelope on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December at CAMYOSFOP office or at the NCHRF. Correction, deliberation and selection of the best three essays will be done by the jury before the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. Prices will be awarded to winners on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December during the celebration of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the international Human Rights day at the Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting ended with closing remarks from the Executive Director who called on the teachers to be honest and ensure continuity in club activities but allow the younger students to compete for impact and visibility.

### **1.7. Validation Workshop on the Voice of Youth on the Education Sector Reforms in Cameroon**

This workshop on the Education Sector reform (ESR) was organized by CAMYOSFOP in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) at FES Home Office in Yaoundé, on **November 21 – 22, 2013**. The workshop began at 9:45 with a welcome remark from **Mr. Ngalim Eugene**, Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP. In his remark, he mentioned that CAMYOSFOP focuses on mobilising the government in improving policies in favour of the youth as seen in the organization's previous two policy papers on, *Youth unemployment and migration* and *agriculture and vocational training as gateway to youth employment in Cameroon*. Mr. Gabriel, Program Officer of FES, declared the workshop open on behalf of FES' Resident Representative, **Mr. Denis Tull**.

**Mr. Charles Linjap**, Chief Consultant of this project introduced how the 2 days program will be run. **Prof. V.G. Fanzo** did a presentation on '*An Overview of Educational Reforms in Cameroon*' which was followed by comments by **Mme Andela** on the same topic. The workshop highlighted a number of challenges in Cameroon's educational system and raised recommendations to these setbacks as seen below.

#### **Challenges**

- Lack of knowledge or information about the functioning of the NEF and other institutions for employment
- Lack of nationwide representation of institutions for employment
- Lack of entrepreneurship education
- Shortage of teachers/counsellors, archaic methodology on job orientation
- Lack of collaboration between institutions of similar objectives

#### **Recommendations**

- Creation of a communication network (TV, newspapers, radio, counselling offices in schools) – CSOs should take responsibility to vulgarise recommendation
- Open offices at all regional, divisional and sub-divisional headquarters
- Entrepreneurship should be introduced as a subject in all schools nationwide, especially in secondary schools and universities
- All teachers should be trained on job counselling and the training packages should be regularly updated
- Institutions of similar objectives should be harmonised and a network created

Once the groups had presented their work, Mr. Ngalim Eugene thanked the participants for their input and FES for the wonderful collaboration. Mr. Gabriel spoke once more on behalf of the Resident Representative and thanked all participants for their input and promised that the document will be shared to them once it is ready. He also thanked Mme Andela and Prof. Fanso, both in absentia, and Charles and Eugene for the excellent job done. He closed the session by wishing all participants a safe trip to their various destinations.

## **2. CO-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES**

### **2.1. National Youth Caravan to End Violence against Girls and Young Women**

In the fight to end violent acts against women and the girl child, the government of Cameroon joined international efforts by taking up measures to adapt international recommendations on eliminating various forms of violence against women and girls in the Cameroon context. It was in this light that the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF) organised the '*National Youth Caravan to End Violence against Girls and Young Women.*' This was done in partnership with UN Women, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education as well as the support of the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP).

The campaign that was part of the activities leading up to the national Youth day in Cameroon usually celebrated on the 11th of February each year, took place in Babessi in the North West region on **May 31, 2013**, and in Lagdo in the North region on **February 4, 2013**.

The campaign began in Babessi with a march past along the streets of the town in which over 1500 young women, girls and boys clad in white t-shirts with the words "TOGETHER LETS SAY NO TO VIOLENCE." This was followed by speeches from organizers of the event at the Babessi municipal stadium in which they exhorted the youth both men and women to respect the rights of women and avoid violating the young women and girls generally perceived as the weaker sex. An attentive and receptive crowd listened and appreciated the words of these experts on gender based violence. The campaign in Babessi ended with a grand cultural manifestation during which local artists performed songs on the theme of violence against women and sketches were performed.

In Lagdo, which is Moslem dominated and has a high ratio of undocumented violence against women and young girls, the caravan rolled in to the gaze of a huge and expectant crowd of young people who were both welcoming and excited by the message that was being given them. A crowd of about 2000 persons from all divisions of the North gathered in Lagdo where a cultural event took place to raise awareness on the issue. Prior to the cultural evening, representatives from the different partner organisations of the campaign gave brief talks on the issues of violence against women and a march past was organized as a means of sensitization on the issue. This Youth Caravan was attended by Ngalim Eugene, Silver, Jato Jannett, Bongmuyong Kenneth, Alex Bikok, Serge Nguimba, Bari Fanzo and Kwalar Ifaana on behalf of CAMYOSFOP.

## **2.2. Consultations on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Post 2015 Agenda.**

### **I. Bamenda Sub-National Consultation**

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in partnership with Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN), Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP), Plateforme Nationale des Organisations de la Société Civile du Cameroun (PLANOSCAM) and positive generation organized a workshop from the **16th to the 17th of April 2013** in Bamenda at AYABA hotel. It held to evaluate the progress made by Cameroon in attaining the MDGs and take into consideration the opinion of the grassroots, the vulnerable, women, children and youth.

The meeting began with a refrain of the national anthem, a word of welcome from **Mr. Martin Tsounkeu**, then a word from the United Nations Resident Representative and the Governor's representative of the North West Region officially declared the event open. This was followed by a presentation of the entire program and opening discussions regarding the Global context, the MDGs and the post 2015 agenda. There was a Question and Answer session for clarification and comments on the MDGs so far after which participants were divided into 6-groups. 9 major pre-occupations with regards to MDGs were treated and 3 were prioritized, that is Health, Education and Employment with the amelioration of infrastructural facilities and respect for Human Rights.

Present in the meeting were a host of close to 75 participants from four regions (Littoral, North-West, West and South-West) some representing the Civil Society and representative from government ministries. Jato Jennett and Mr. Eugene NGALIM represented CAMYOSFOP.

### **II. Bertoua Sub-National Consultation**

The consultation in Bertoua held on **03 and 04 May 2013**, with 76 participants from four regions (East, Centre and South). The Governor of the East Region was represented by the Inspector General who officially presided over the event. **Mr. Gildas Banda**, UNDP Programme Officer addressed the participants at the opening and closing ceremonies. He stressed the constant support of the UN system to the development process in Cameroon.

After contextual presentation and discussion of the eleven thematic areas identified at the global level, participants independently and in reference to their personal experiences, discussed 6 major issues (Education, Health, Environment, Employment, Governance and Infrastructure) from which 3 key priorities emerged: *Health, Education and Employment*, integrating some other concerns such as human rights, nature protection and partnership for development.

In terms of methodological approach for development, participants considered that infrastructure development and good governance are more than just crosscutting issues. They expressed the view that these stood as a precondition and an ingredient for development. During the debates, participants insisted on the importance of inclusiveness for development.

In the evaluation of the consultation, participants expressed the view that **“the future we want”** is already here, as they got the opportunity to witness an approach that could eventually ensure inclusiveness for all: **“if things continue to be done this way for development, then we trust that the minorities like the Baka Pygmies will really be part of development processes”**. They praised the indication that they perceived underneath the sub-national consultation that the Post 2015 approach for development will really be people centred and environment friendly. Charles Linjap and Serge Nguimba represented CAMYOSFOP.

### **III. Yaoundé National Consultation**

The Grand National consultation was organized in Yaoundé on **May 28 and 29, 2013** by the government of Cameroon and the UN system at Hilton Hotel Yaoundé. The event was chaired by **Mr. Emmanuel Nganou Djoumessi**, minister of Economic Planning and Regional Development (MINIPAT) and **Madam Najat Rochdi**, UN coordinators representative and UNDP Resident Representative in Cameroon.

The consultation brought together participants from various government ministries, UN Agencies, the private sector, universities and research institutions, development partners and the civil society to brainstorm on Cameroons priorities for post 2015 taking into consideration the outcome of the sub-national consultations.

The two day consultation had as outcome health, education and environmental sustainability as top priorities for the post 2015 Agenda. CAMYOSFOP was represented in the event by Ngalm Eugene and JATO Jennet.

#### **2.3. Celebration of the International Youth Day in Cameroon**

As one of the side activities to celebrate the International Youth Day (IYD) in Cameroon, CAMYOSFOP, SMIC and Divine THIOKAM who spoke for the My World Project and Y-PARD, organized an event on the **12 of August 2013** under the banner of the international theme *‘Youth Migration; Moving Development’*.

This information event aimed at highlighting reasons why youths prefer travelling abroad, the advantages and disadvantages of their migration and why it is

necessary to avoid illegal migration. Emphases were also laid on the fact that even though Cameroon is not a bed of roses the youth still have a future in it.

On a second hand, the event was held to introduce the *My World Project*, a UN initiative to enable the youth make a choice on what they would want their governments to focus on achieving after the MDGs deadline of 2015. The young people present were then asked to individually select the 6 best propositions from a list of 16 propositions which will indicate the future they want. These propositions will go a long way to fulfill the MDGs post 2015 agenda. The talk on development and the agricultural sector was seen as a fertile ground to promote youth development. It was suggested that if everybody could see agriculture as a business and not just for local consumption we could forward development.

The outcome of this event came with sensitization of the youths on the negative aspects of illegal migration and also exposed them to opportunities existing in Cameroon. Also measures to end child labor were advocated for by some participants and to help the under privileged. The YPARD agricultural oriented sector also made us to understand that agriculture in bulk could forward development in our country, Cameroon. The session closed at about 5.00pm and it was resolved that this initiative to celebrate the international youth day will be intensified next year. Ngalim Eugene, Kenneth Bongmuyong, Bikok Alex, Serge Nguimba, Jato Jennett and Bari Fanzo represented CAMYOSFOP during this event.

#### **2.4. Celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the International Human Rights Day.**

The 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the international human rights day was celebrated in Yaoundé on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2013** at the Chamber of Commerce. The National Commission for Human Rights and Freedom (NCHRF) mobilized people from diverse works of life; Government Administrations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Human Rights Advocates and even students, to take part in the celebration under the theme “*20 Years of Working for Your Rights.*”

It began with a word of welcome from the President of the NCHRF, who thanked participants for being present and for their enormous sacrifices in the promotion and protection of human rights. This was closely followed by a speech from the representative of Plan Cameroon and the Director of the United Nations Commission for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD) who elaborated on the theme of the day. **Madam Eva**, Chief of Division of the Protection and Promotion of Human Right was also given the chance to talk on the collaboration between the NCHRF and UNCHRD.

One of the most important phases of the celebration was the 2013 Human Rights Essay Competition Excellence Award for 20 secondary schools organized by CAMYOSFOP and the NCHRF. This was handled by the CAMYOSFOP team lead by Mr. Alex Bikok and Miss Bari Fanzo, who gave a brief history of CAMYOSFOP. Prizes were given to winners of the best three essays. The first best essay was from Oxford with a cash prize of 50,000 FRS, the second from----with 30,000 FRS and third from---- with 20,000 FRS respectively.

Speeches were spiced by a recitation of some of the articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in French and English, drama and musical interlude. The event ended with a satisfactory note from the Chairman of the NCHRF, Pictures taken, interviews, carried out by the different media houses present and a cocktail. Bari Fanzo, Alex Bikok, Jato Jennet, Velveeta Viban, Bongmuyong Kenneth and Serge Nguimba represented CAMYOSFOP



### **3. Participation in National Events**

#### **3.1. Leadership Training for Adolescents and Young Girls on the Use of Media and Social Network for the Prevention of HIV and HIV Sexospecific Violence**

The youth training took place from **February 6 to 8, 2013** in Yaoundé. The training was organised by Presse Jeune in partnership with UNAIDS and the National Committee for the Fight against AIDS (CNLS), and it aimed at training the youth and youth leaders on the use of media and social media for the prevention of HIV and the elimination of HIV sexospecific violence. The three days training involved a number of presentations, experience sharing by the youth, and evaluations that eventually led to recommendations of specific actions that will be taken to roll back the spread of AIDS. This training was attended by Ms. Bari FANSO.

#### **3.2. Workshop on Educational Options: “Cameroon beyond 2035”**

Organised from the **12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2013**, in Yaoundé within the premises of the FES offices, the educational options workshop jointly organised by the Cameroon Teachers Trade Union (CATTU) and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Foundation had as objectives:

- To follow up on the Buea Seminar on “*Cameroon’s Educational System 50 years after independence*” and the Bamenda focus-group discussion of November 2012. Both seminars had focused on regenerating the educational sector in Cameroon.
- To validate the blue print for the announced Education Forum by trade unions of the education sector so as to be prepared when the forum is slated
- To present the draft lobby document for the education forum for inputs on effective lobby strategies in the short and long term
- Prepare and adopt a lobby agenda against the 2035 objectives of Cameroon’s emergence so that education should be the torch bearer of this emergence.

Charles Linjap and Kenneth Bongmuyong represented CAMYOSFOP.

#### **3.3. Strategic Dialogue on the State of Human Rights in Cameroon**

On the **9<sup>th</sup> of April 2013**, a strategic dialogue among 15 youth leaders of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), gathered in majority by the Cameroon Youth Engagement Network (CAMYEN), took place at the US Embassy in Yaoundé to evaluate *the state of Human Rights implementation in Cameroon* and to propose recommendations for improvements to the Cameroonian government.

After the introductory remarks of the Director of Public Affairs of the Embassy, the Chairpersons **Mr. SANYI Emmanuel Sanyi** and **Ms. Pulcherie Irene PIEUMI** outlined the objectives of this roundtable. All the youth leaders present adopted the methodology to work with two distinct groups being formed. The first group analyzed the civil society human rights report and the other, the government's report – both reports were placed in comparison to the 2009 Universal Periodic Report of the Human Rights of Council. The reporters for the two groups were **Ms. Marie TAMOIFO** and **Mr. Gilbert EWEMEH**. After the three hours working session, preliminary results were presented and discussions were held on the group propositions while the groups agreed to submit a final report to the Embassy staff 48 hours after the initial meeting.

The recommendations finalized by the Reporters-Committee and reflecting the inputs of the 15 CSOs leaders who contributed to the strategic dialogue on the Human Rights Report in Cameroon included some of the following propositions:

- The Legal And Institutional Framework should be improved upon in Cameroon with more room for the youths to express themselves, thus the need to Re-enforce leadership capacities of youth and civil society leaders to enable them become more involved in political discourse and action;
- Adopt information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve transparency, social inclusion and access to information within and among the public and private sectors, the government, and CSOs;
- Focus on partnership with institutional support in order to instill trust between CSOs and government through joint activities or similar financing innovations.
- Institutional Reforms are needed to develop mechanisms to monitor and evaluate texts and laws in practice.

In general the civil and political rights as well as the Economic and cultural rights though haven been improved need to be reinforced so as to enable CSOs and youths in Cameroon to be able to benefit from their fundamental rights.

In conclusion, the group of participants greatly appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the Human Rights Report in Cameroon, and encouraged the U.S. policy review reports on human rights in Cameroon to continue to involve youth and CSO leaders in the evaluation and monitoring of Cameroon's application of human rights. Jato Jennet and Kenneth Bongmuyong attended this event on behalf of CAMYOSFOP.

#### **3.4. CSO Consultation on the Adoption of the Recommendations to Cameroon on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

On **September 2, 2013** the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF) organized a workshop on the participation of Cameroon at the UPR which was earlier held on May 1, 2013.

This workshop saw the participation of 50 members of the civil society from the 10 regions of Cameroon and was held in Yaoundé in the conference room of the Chamber of Agriculture. Its objectives were to encourage:

- The civil societies' contribution in order to facilitate the government's stance on a consensual and expanded process in regard to the 171 recommendations given to the government during her participation in the UPR working group;
- Dialogue and partnership between the government, CSOs and the NCHRF maintained.

The workshop was taken-off by **Mrs Eva Mayer ETONGUE** and was followed by the distribution of working groups. The participants examined the different positions of Cameroon in regards to the 171 recommendations and provided relevant explanations for their responses.

At the end of the day, the participants summed up their recommendations to the government into one: **Cameroon in its right can ratify all the international laws and conventions on the condition that these laws are in compliance with the legislative laws of our STATE.**

### **3.5. Presentation of the Recent Commonwealth Reforms to the Cameroonian Public**

The last commonwealth head of government meeting held in Australia in October 2011 reached agreement on a number of far reaching reforms aimed at modernizing the organization. In this light, the Minister Delegate in charge of relations with commonwealth on **Thursday the 6th of June 2013** in the amphitheatre of the International Relations institute of Cameroon (IRIC) organized a ceremony to present these reforms to the Cameroonian public.

The reforms presented were focused on 3 key issues;

- The commonwealth charter
- The reform of the commonwealth secretariat
- The reform of the commonwealth foundation

Also prominent amongst these were recommendations for the commonwealth secretariat to focus its resources on areas where it has a comparative advantage and for the development plans to re-launch the common wealth foundation to

enable it to effectively strengthen and mobilize civil society organizations to support commonwealth principles and priorities. CAMYOSFOP was invited and represented by Mr. Eugene Ngalim the executive Director.

### **3.6. Workshop on Human Rights**

From **August 13 to 14, 2013** the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD) in partnership with SIGHTSAVERS organized a two-day workshop under the theme: human rights and election including political participation of traditionally marginalized groups in Cameroon.

Over 50 people from the civil society in Cameroon were present at this important platform for exchange that took place in one of the UNCHRD conference rooms. The workshop aimed at identifying and proposing joint actions which can be conducted by CSOs that work in the field of human rights and elections.

On the first day, the participants were expected to put in place a strategy for the effective implementation of actions that will permit the proper respect of human rights during the electoral process. The second day was reserved for proposals on the resources that are necessary for the successful implementation of these actions and the creation of a follow up or monitoring mechanism for them.

The closing remark was done by the President of the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms in the person of Dr. CHEMUTA Divine Banda. Serge Nguiamba represented CAMYOSFOP during this visit.

### **3.7. Launching Model United Nations and the My World Survey Youth Conference**

This event was organized by the Cameroon Model United Nations (CAMIMUN) in partnership with CAMYOSFOP, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). It was held at the National Youth Council in Yaoundé on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013**. Participants included youths (students), youth organizations, and members of the National Youth Council, CAMIMUN, and CAMYOSFOP.

The Model United Nations Launch began at 10:15 am with an introductory word from **Mr. Robert Petron MESSE**, the President of CAMIMUN. This was followed by, a presentation of the present panelists which included **Ms. Elise MEYOUNGNE**, a member of CAMIMUN, **Mr. EKANI Serge** from France Volontaire and a later arrival of other panelists like **Mr. Eugene NGALIM**, Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP and **Ms. Olivia MUKAM**, President of Harambe.

The conference was geared towards giving the participants a general overview on youth participation in achieving the MDGs and mostly the post 2015 Development Goals in a bid to prepare them on the upcoming Model United Nations conference set for October 2013. A brief introduction on what Model United Nations is was done by Robert P. MESSE. In Africa there are Models in Kenya, Marrakech, Addis Ababa (AU Model), Tanzania who just put into place a model). Cameroon so far, is the only in Central Africa. CAMIMUN aims at simulating what a UN conference looks like and training people on communication skills and diplomatic tactics. The goal of this Model UN is to draft up a position paper which shows a state's opinion and stand point vis-a-vis certain international questions at stake and their policy views. Added to this, is the drafting of final reports and resolutions which will become a practical guide for most countries, especially for countries with no ECOSOC status like Cameroon but are guided by their partnership with UNDP to create impact.

In a presentation given by CAMYOSFOP's Executive Director, Mr. Eugene NGALIM on youth involvement in the MDG's and the post 2015 Development Agenda, he brought out the inevitable link between the youths and these established goals. Equally a briefing was done on the "My World survey" calling each individual to make their voices heard by voting for their top six priorities amongst a laid out 16.

A presentation was later on expatiated upon by Mr. EKANI Serge from France Volontaire, on the importance and challenges of Volunteering as well as, the distinction between volunteering and benevolent works. This conference was closed up by explanation of the rules and procedures to follow during a Model UN conference and a collection of the My World Survey votes. This launch was attended by Velveeta Viban, Jato Jennet, Bari Fanzo, Ngalim Eugene and Kenneth Bongmuyong on behalf of CAMYOSFOP.

### **3.8. Book Launch on "L'imperatif des Alliance en Democratie."**

The book launch was organized under the auspices of Friedrich Ebert Foundation on the **9<sup>th</sup> of September 2013** at Djeuga Palace Hotel Yaoundé. The event at 9:30 am began with the presentation of the panel and a brief introduction on the book "*L'imperatif des alliances en democratie*".

Taking into account African reality, the African system of relations imposes democracy as a required form for the organization of politics. A major axis was hence tilted towards the "*construction of alliances and coalitions in Cameroon*", as such of what interest and value is this to the society at large. In this regard, Mr. Mathias OWONA NGUINI a co-author and member of the book presentation panel reiterated the need for coalition because, the globe interacts on a competitive level as such the need for a pluralistic democracy, hence the need to be structured.

Following in this line of thoughts, a distinction was set between political actors which are 2 of a kind: Para politicians and quasi politicians and all these actors are said to communicate on a terrain known as “Marché Politique” / “Political Market”. A political market was referred to as a space in which exist political enterprises. Unlike some scholars like Max Weber who opted for a hegemony of power that is, no pluralism of actors nor institutions.

In a global sense, the book “L’imperatif des alliances en démocratie”, seeks to define an Alliance, a Coalition, the key factors for each of them to succeed and the dynamics on how they function within a Cameroonian context.

A critical analysis of the book was done laying out the positive points as well as its shortcomings. The positive points sought to bring out a general appraisal of what the book had demonstrated and were rather shallow as compared to the negative views upheld.

- The book was praised for the fact that a reflection of such calibre had been presented in a book, a path which few have opted for.
- It portrayed a diagnostic of the change (democracy) which for so long, seems to have been problematic.
- A perfect illustration of an Alliance (RDPC-UNDP) - which was rather regarded as amateur and unrealistic.
- The book was criticized for the ideology and analogy in its orientation which seemed to insufficient.
- The notion of “time” was regarded as an insufficient determinant to differentiate both concepts of Alliance and Coalition. So from what moment does an alliance become a coalition?
- Fraud should not be regarded as the only criteria for the failure of a pluralist democracy or the reason for the failure of a coalition of political parties, but the rationality of the population (voters)
- There is a difficulty in determining the difference between political parties and associations given that; for coalitions to be put into place, they need to categorize each and what are their roles.

This book launch was attended by Velveeta Viban and Jato Jennet on behalf of CAMYOSFOP.

## **4. Participation in International Events**

### **4.1. JOCA – AU Collaboration Program**

From **March 17 to June 12, 2013** the Japan Overseas Cooperative Association and the African Union collaborated in a program that brought together African and Japanese volunteers to work in the disaster affected areas of the Iwate Prefecture in Japan.

The Program aimed at strengthening partnership between Japan and Africa by bringing volunteers from Africa to support projects on regional revitalization, earthquake recovery and participate in intercultural exchanges. At the end of two months of activities with local communities, the African volunteers shared the activities at the TICAD V side event that was organized by JOCA.

Bari Fanso represented CAMYOSFOP in this event.

### **4.2. 54<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights**

From **October 21 to 23, 2013** in Gambia, Banjul a conference on '*Police and Human Rights in Africa: Role of the African Commission*' was held to focus on the role of the African Commission in addressing police and human rights in its protection and promotion mandate and to review recommendations that are simple, well-structured and practical, and not merely a repetition of existing standards.

During this event, Mr. Ngalim Eugene, who represented CAMYOSFOP and the Cameroon NCHRF, did a presentation on '*The role of NHRIs in promoting human rights compliant policing*' in which he highlighted the achievements and challenges of the NCHRF in Cameroon and proposed some recommendations that would not only be beneficial for Cameroon but for all NHRIs across Africa.

### **4.3. Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals**

The '*Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs)*' which was jointly organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the **October 31 to November 5, 2013**.

The meeting aimed at:

- Providing a platform for African countries to identify, articulate and reach consensus on the region's sustainable development goals which will take into account those emerging from the region's Post-2015 development Agenda process embodied in the African Common position on the same.
- Preparing Africans to speak in one strong voice and rally international support around SDGs that are well-aligned with the region's sustainable development priorities and aspirations.
- Adopting an outcome document that will serve as Africa's common reference document and collective input to the work of the United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group on SDGs

Ngalim Eugene represented CAMYOSFOP in this event.

#### **4.4. Africa UNiTE Youth Leadership Training**

The Africa Youth UNiTE Network Leadership Training was held in Debrezeit, Ethiopia from **3 – 6 December, 2013**. Organized by UN Women, the United Nations Secretary General Africa UNiTE Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Urgent Action Fund Africa for Women's Human Rights, this workshop under themed *'Leveraging African Youth Innovation and Energy to End Violence against Women and Girls'* aimed at:

- Facilitating and finalizing the establishment of the Africa Youth UNiTE Network to EVAW/Gs by supporting a workshop of youths - representatives of the think tank group that drafted the Declaration and Action Plan in Arusha-March 2012, as well as other Youths that have been active in Campaign Activities in key countries, to finalize the constituent documents, action plan and develop a resource mobilization plan;
- Initiate consultations, agreed criteria and setting up of the inaugural bureau that will prepare launching of the initiative;
- Agree on and put systems in place to track, document and share best practices by African Youth prior, during and post the Kilimanjaro Climb initiative;
- Initiate a reflection with participants on their contributions to outcomes of 16 Days of Activism in their respective countries and Africa Youth's participation and contribution to AU, CSW, Post 2015 Development Agenda, ICPD processes and related forums with messages on EVAWG in Africa.
- Enable youths share experiences on ending VAW/Gs; build capacities and strengthen leadership skills, to be ambassadors of the Campaign in their respective countries and or communities

Ngalim Eugene represented CAMYOSFOP in this event.



#### **4.5. 7th Session of the Africa-UNiTE Regional Steering Committee**

The session was held in Djibouti from the 12-13 December 2013 and was hosted by the Africa UNiTE co-chairs (UN Women, UNFPA, UNECA and AUC) and the IGAD Secretariat.

Amongst others the objectives of the meeting were to:

- Learn and share experiences on the innovative work and results in rolling out the Campaign by Member states, RECs, UN Agencies, Security Sector, CSOs, Youths and others at various levels, and
- Review and adopt Africa UNiTE Annual Work-plan for 2014, with concrete commitments to support implementation;

Ngalim Eugene represented CAMYOSFOP in this event.

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3. National Commission on Human Rights and Freedom (NCHRF)
4. African Union Commission (AUC)
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6. United Nation Development Program (UNDP).
7. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).
8. UN Women
9. Democracy and Human Rights Fund of the US Embassy in Cameroon
10. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)
11. Japan Overseas Cooperative Association (JOCA)
12. Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lake and Horn of Africa (RECSA).
13. Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN)
14. Bread for Life
15. Cameroon Teachers Trade Union (CATTU)
16. Cameroon Youth Engagement Network (CAMYEN)
17. Cameroon Model United Nations (CAMIMUN)
18. National Platform of Civil Society Organizations of Cameroon (PLANOSCAM).
19. Solution aux Migrations Clandestine (SMIC)
20. Presse Jeunes