

CAMYOSFOP Takes the Lead in Piloting the Creation of SDGs Clubs in Cameroon

Cameroon is one of the five countries in Africa that is part of the Global Network for Sustainable Development (GNSD) platform. In Cameroon, the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) is piloting the creation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Clubs in Secondary schools, thanks to her long history of running Human Rights Clubs. The Human Rights Clubs that date back to 2001 have been transformed by CAMYOSFOP to Human Rights, Peace and SDGs Clubs. The effectiveness of these clubs is assessed through extra-curricular activities that include Essay Competition, quiz, debate, drama, drawing and paintings, journalistic reports, poetry and song.

In order to kick start SDGs education within CAMYOSFOP clubs, CAMYOSFOP in partnership with the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF) organized the 5th Annual Essay Competition Excellence Award on Human Rights in December 2018. The activities of the event focused on Article 1 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights on equality and dignity and Goal 5 of the SDGs on equality. Both concepts were aligned to the Human Rights Approach towards the achievement of the SDGs. The Award ceremony of this Essay Competition culminated to the traditional cultural manifestation on Human Rights now transformed to Human Rights, Peace and SDGs Cultural Manifestation. The event hosted by Government Bilingual Practicing High School (GBPHS) brought together clubs from 12 secondary Schools in Yaoundé.

The high point of this cultural manifestation was the presentation of the SDGs Clubs concept and, the unveiling of the SDGs flag by the representatives of the schools present thus officially launching the Human Rights, Peace and SDGs Clubs in Cameroon. The SDG flag was immediately hosted in GBPHS as the very first school to create an SDG Club.

Prior to the celebration of the Cameroon Youth Day on 11 of February 2019, CAMYOSFOP organized a painting competition with the various clubs on goal 16 on, “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” with a focus on the promotion of peace in Cameroon. This event again culminated to the second cultural manifestation in Christian Comprehensive Secondary School (CCSS), Nkolbong in Yaounde. The event also saw the award of prizes to the best painters and the hosting of an SDG flag in the campus making CCSS the second official SDG club in Yaounde. Other schools that have officially hosted the SDG flag to officialise the SDG clubs include Government Bilingual High School (GBHS) Etug-Ebe; Government High School, Cite Verte, Holy Infant High School, Melen, Mario Comprehensive High School, Mendong, Mervick Bilingual Grammar school, Etug - Ebe; Oxford High School, Obili; and English High School, Obili.

As CAMYOSFOP looks forward to offering proper training to teachers and students and providing didactic materials for the running of their clubs, CAMYOSFOP stands tall in Cameroon and beyond as a key stakeholder in the promotion of the SDGs through the creation of Peace and Sustainable Clubs in Cameroonian schools. CAMYOSFOP therefore counts on the support of all other stakeholders and funding agencies for greater momentum on the running of SDG clubs.

The SDGs adopted by 192 Head of States and Governments in 2015 replacing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted at the dawn of the Millennium has become the cornerstone of every development policy. However, its achievements depends on an inclusive implementation. It is

on this basis that the GNSD and CAMYOSFOP are spearheading the active involvement of children and youths by encouraging the creation of Peace and Sustainable Clubs at the global level.