



# REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

---

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) 2019 ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**PRESENTATION OF  
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW (VNR) - CAMEROON**

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY Alamine OUSMANE MEY,  
MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY, PLANNING AND REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

*New York, July 18, 2019*

## Thank you, Chair!

I am honoured to present the first Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development, for the Republic of Cameroon.

First of all, I would like to express the gratitude of our country to the Secretariat General of the United Nations Organisation for giving our Country the opportunity to share its experience on the implementation of SDGS and Agenda 2030.

My presentation will cover:

1. **KEY FACTS ABOUT CAMEROON ;**
2. **CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY OF VNR;**
3. **ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES ;**
4. **VIDEO ILLUSTRATION ;**
5. **THE WAY FORWARD.**

Cameroon is located at the heart of the Gulf of Guinea. A country with stable institutions, diversified and resilient economy, supported by great infrastructures, and the promotion of oil and non-oil activities.

Furthermore, with a population of 25.6 million, of which 60 % is constituted of young people under 25 years old, Cameroon will face new challenges related to the very fast urbanization.

### Chair,

Turning now to the specific **Context and Methodology** of the realisation of the Voluntary National Review on SDGS in Cameroon, it is noteworthy to mention that the implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2030 over the period 2016-2019 has been marked by:

- ✓ the updating of national and sector development strategies notably in the health and education sectors to align them to the agenda 2030 and SDGs. The aim is to make Cameroon a place in the World where « **No One is Left Behind** »
- ✓ the emergence and persistence of socio/security crises with negative consequences on the implementation of SDGs.

The VNR Methodology was built on normative, participatory and inclusive approaches, without losing sight on the **CHALLENGES** facing the implementation of each SDG.

During our session, my focus will be on SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 which are being reviewed this year in the High Level Political Forum.

 **On SDG 4 :**

As it concerns Fundamental Education, the completion Rates of students at first cycle Secondary Level General Education has improved from *53.2% in 2015 to 80% in 2018*.

On the contrary, the completion rate has deteriorated at the primary level due to security crisis and humanitarian challenges.

Moreover, the pupil-teacher's ratio has deteriorated as a consequence of an increase in the school enrollment.

The main **challenges** are to (i) **reduce** education cost; (ii) **improve** supply of technical education (quality & access); (iii) **promote universal completion of fundamental education**.

 **Concerning SDG 8:**

Our country registered a stable Economic Growth over the period 2016-2018 with an average economic growth of **4%** per annum.

The **main challenge** here is how to reach the **7%** of annual economic growth rate that is required to meet the SDGs and the ambitious development Vision of the country in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

**Chair,**

 **On SDG 10:**

**Income inequality, being most flagrant, is still higher** and exacerbated by security crisis. To curb this trend, the Government has extended the scope of the Social Safety Nets project by increasing the number of beneficiaries and raising progressively the *Guaranteed Minimum Wage (SMIG)*.

Nonetheless, the **challenge** now is how to ensure a broad social protection **to as many people as possible**.

 **In relation to SDG 13:**

Cameroon adopted, in 2015 a National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change (PNACC). Similarly, an inter-ministerial committee was created to follow-up the implementation of the Paris Agreement recommendations (COP 21).

In the same vein, a list of eligible projects to the **Green Climate Fund** has been elaborated.

Yet, the coordination of actions aimed at combatting climate change as well as the mobilization of resources to fund the National Adaptation Plan, remain the key **challenges** in achieving SDG 13 on climate Action.

 **With regard to SDG 16:**

Despite **increased fragility and instability** in conflict areas, there is great **improvement in the quality of institutions**. As a matter of fact, Cameroon's score in the World Bank's quality of policies and institutions moved from 3.1/6 in 2015 to 3.3/6 in 2019, through policies and structural reforms.

Nevertheless, more effort is still required to i) reinforce trust and confidence in national institutions for greater efficiency, inclusion and justice; (ii) strengthen good governance and (iii) restore/consolidate peace and stability in crisis areas.

 **On SDG 17:**

The average annual State budget revenues (excluding donations) has significantly increased (7.7% of growth rate).

**But the main challenges are: IDENTIFYING and EXPLOITING new revenue sources; PROMOTING a fair and inclusive digital economy and IMPROVING on the competitiveness of the economy.**

**Chair, before delving into the Way forward, allow me to share with you a short video on SDGs flagship achievements in Cameroon: (VIDEO)**

Summing up, three key challenges require the utmost attention in Cameroon.

First: **ENSURE** large mobilization of multiple stakeholders

Second: **STRENGTHEN** the Statistical System for better monitoring

Third: **MOBILIZE FINANCIAL RESOURCES** necessary to achieve the SDGs.

**CHAIR, MOVING FORWARD, five areas will be of paramount interest for the government of Cameroon and its different partners in the upcoming years:**

- ✓ **INTENSIFICATION OF NATIONAL OWNERSHIP** of the SDGs (i.e inclusion in school and university curricular and in extra-curricular activities)
- ✓ **ACCELERATION OF FULL INTEGRATION** of SDGs into daily public policies and programs;
- ✓ **ESTABLISHMENT** of a national Multi-stakeholder monitoring framework (as a review and accountability platform for the implementation of SDGs);
- ✓ **STRENGTHENING** of national statistical system (Support from the World Bank);
- ✓ **ELABORATION OF STRATEGY** aimed at enlarging partnerships and mobilizing financial resources needed for a successful implementation of the SDGs.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**