

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

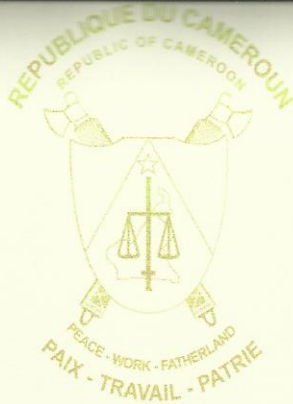
BETWEEN

THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

AND

THE HOLY SEE,

ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CAMEROON



FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON AND THE
HOLY SEE ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CAMEROON

The Republic of Cameroon

and

The Holy See

(Hereinafter referred to as "High Contracting Parties")

Considering the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between the Republic of Cameroon and the Holy See;

Considering that the Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon establishes a secular state and guarantees religious freedom;

Recognizing the importance of respect for religious freedom;

Taking into account the importance of the action of the Catholic Church in Cameroon;

Desiring to establish, under Cameroonian law and the norms of canon law in force, the legal framework of relations between the Catholic Church and the Republic of Cameroon;

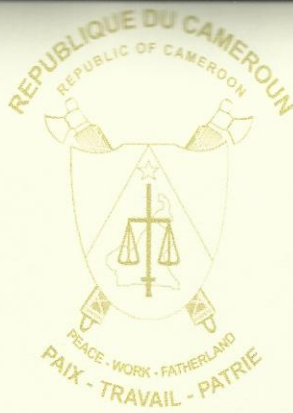
Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Republic of Cameroon and the Holy See reiterate that the State and the Catholic Church, each one in its order, are sovereign, independent and autonomous, and are committed to work together for the moral, spiritual and material well-being of the human person and to promote the common good.

Article 2

1. The Republic of Cameroon recognizes the legal personality that the Catholic Church and the Holy See possess inherently.



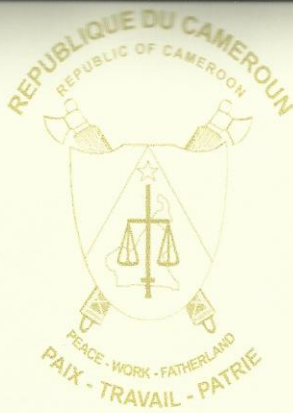
2. It also recognizes the legal personality of all legal entities that enjoy this quality in canon law at the time of entry into force of this Framework Agreement or who subsequently acquire it.
3. The recognition referred to in paragraph two of this Article is acquired on the date of the written declaration by the Apostolic Nunciature and communicated, through diplomatic channels, to the Republic of Cameroon.

Article 3

1. The Republic of Cameroon acknowledges the exclusive jurisdiction of the Holy See:
 - ↑ to erect, alter or suppress any institution, circumscription and other entities within its competence;
 - ↑ to appoint, to transfer, to dismiss and to accept the resignation of bishops and those that are canonically equivalent;
 - ↑ to appoint and to assign ecclesiastical offices, in accordance with the norms of canon law.
2. When the Holy See establishes, modifies or terminates an ecclesiastical circumscription, and before the publication of the appointment of a diocesan bishop or whoever is canonically assimilated to him, it shall inform the Cameroonian authorities.
3. In case of suppression or extinction of an ecclesiastical institution, the competent authority of the Catholic Church decides the allocation of the assets and liabilities of the said institution.

Article 4

1. The Republic of Cameroon acknowledges the Catholic Church's right to engage in human, social, cultural, moral, spiritual and material development for the good of all, and to create, for this purpose, appropriate institutions having legal personality under Cameroonian law.
2. Given their contribution to social development, Ecclesiastical Institutions in Cameroon may be deemed of public benefit under the legislation in force.



Article 5

1. The Republic of Cameroon recognizes and protects the rights of Catholics to associate, in accordance with the norms of canon law, for specific activities of the Church's mission.
2. For this purpose, it grants legal personality to such associations.

Article 6

1. Ecclesiastical legal persons may acquire, possess, dispose of and alienate movable and immovable properties, in accordance with Cameroonian and canonical law.
2. The administration of property belonging to ecclesiastical institutions is subjected to the rules provided by canon law and by the Cameroonian legislation, each one within its area of competence.
3. The Republic of Cameroon commits itself to examining the contributions or facilities it shall be able to provide, to the extent of its possibilities, to the institutions and social works of the Catholic Church.
4. Ecclesiastical legal persons may establish foundations whose activities, as regards their civil effects, will be governed by the laws and regulations in force in Cameroon.

Article 7

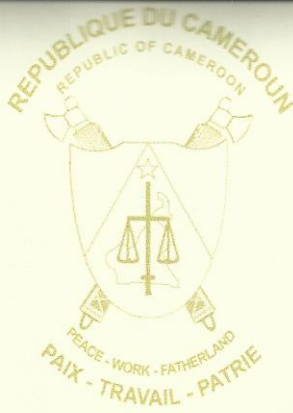
The Republic of Cameroon and the Holy See shall, whenever necessary, conclude agreements, protocols and special arrangements for the implementation of this Framework Agreement.

Article 8

The Republic of Cameroon and the Holy See agree to settle, through diplomatic channels, any issue that may arise from the interpretation or the application of this Framework Agreement.

Article 9

1. This Framework Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature in accordance with the stipulations of Article 12 (1) (a) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 23 May 1969.



2. It can be modified by mutual consent at the request of one of the High Contracting Parties, and changes agreed upon shall enter into force as of the date of their signature.

Done at YAOUNDE, on the 13 of January 2014 in two (2) original copies in English, French and Italian, all versions being equally authentic.

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

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H.E. Pierre MOUKOKO MBONJO
Minister of External Relations

FOR THE HOLY SEE

.....
H.E. Archbishop Piero PIOPPO
Apostolic Nuncio