

Visite d'Etat au Cameroun
de S.E.M. FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE ,
Président de la République Française

Yaoundé, 03 Juillet 2015



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THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Although public attention focuses mainly on the so-called sensational cases examined by the judiciary in recent years, the fight against corruption in Cameroon is a permanent struggle. Many false statements are being made on the anti-corruption crusade in Cameroon. Besides the controversy, people of good faith are of the opinion that corruption has done great harm by depriving the State of the resources needed to improve the well-being of the population and by damaging Cameroon's image.

Since this plague is deeply rooted in the social fabric, the State could no longer let the misappropriation of public funds go unpunished without seriously jeopardizing the country's development efforts. After a sensitization campaign that lasted several years and repeated warnings by the Head of State, it is time for repression. Nobody is spared. All the alleged culprits, be they senior civil servants or not, must answer the charges levelled against them before the law courts which operate in total independence. Thus, the fight against corruption is not witch-hunting or political purging. Key Cameroonian opposition leaders, candidates in presidential elections, have never been bothered.

The legal arsenal has been strengthened. In December 2011, the National Assembly passed the law establishing the Special Criminal Court (SCC), reflecting Government's intention to give the fight against corruption a specific character and to speed up the handling of cases relating to organized economic and financial crimes. The SCC is an ordinary rather than a specialized court. Its main task is to punish the misappropriation of public funds when the damage suffered by the State is over 50 million CFAF. Where the amounts misappropriated are less than 50 million CFAF,

trial courts have jurisdiction. The terms and conditions for the restitution of corpus delicti in the SCC have been defined. They enable the Procureur General to quash proceedings against an accused, when authorized by the Minister of Justice, where the corpus delicti has been restituted.

Since then, 119 cases have been referred by trial courts to the SCC and 39 cases have been entered for trial. The cases are the subject of public discussion. As of 3 April 2014, the SCC had made 52 rulings, 36 of them on merits, 26 defendants have been acquitted while and 51 convicted.

Concerning the restitution of corpus delicti, 16 persons who requested the stay of proceedings had refunded 2 401 million CFAF to the State as at 3 April. Fines and legal fees totalled more than 603 million CFAF. The SCC has already passed judgements amounting to more than 12 billion CFAF in damages.

Since then, 169 other matters have been registered at the SCC. The embezzlement of public funds has been the main motive of these cases. The amounts involved are frightening. The cases have been argued publicly. By 12 June 2015, the SCC had given judgement on 87 cases. 126 persons have been found guilty while 55 persons were finally acquitted.

As concerns the recovery of funds, 19 persons requested that the procedure be withdrawn as they paid back to the State, as of 9 June 2015, the sum of 2 billion, 757 million 844 729 Francs CFA. The SCC pronounced pecuniary judgement to a total amount of 28 billion 598 million 643 239 Francs CFA as damages and interest.

Figures of SCC from 2012 to 2015

Case	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014	Year 2015 (12 June)
Registered cases	14	51	62	42
Decided cases	02	41	33	11
Persons found guilty	01	51	53	21
Acquitted persons	00	22	14	19
Amount recovered	213 571 Francs (Dépens)	00	00	00
Cases withdrawn	00	13	02	00
Pecuniary sentences	75 166 080	8 420 644 266	9 897 748 438	10 205 084 455
Before the Supreme Court	00	41	48	19
Amount recovered by 9 June 2015 : 2 757 844 729 FCFA				

Source : SCC.

Other anti-corruption entities include the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) established in 2006; the Financial Investigation Agency established in 2005 which combats money laundering and the fraudulent movement of funds; the Audit Bench of the Supreme; the Supreme State Audit whose role has been strengthened; the Public Contracts Regulatory Agency; and the Ministry of Public Contracts.

Public administrative reform which has resulted in decentralization, the simplification of administrative procedures and the streamlining of public finance (expenditure quality, streamlining of the public payroll, etc.), the digitization of government services and the systematic institution of dialogue between public authorities and the private sector, demonstrates the State's resolve to combat corruption in sectors where it persists.

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Reunification of Cameroon in February 2014, the Head of State, driven by a surge of humanism, exercised the right of pardon provided for by the Constitution in favour of many prisoners, including persons convicted for the misappropriation of public funds. In all, 24 000 prisoners in 77 prisons all over the country may be eligible for this presidential measure.

In a nutshell, the anti-corruption crusade is a major development challenge for Cameroon. It is being pursued relentlessly. Cameroon counts on the usual support of its partners, including the United States of America.



CONCLUSIONS OF THE PARIS SUMMIT ON SECURITY IN NIGERIA (17 May 2014)

The Heads of State of Benin, Cameroon, France, Nigeria, Niger and Chad as well as the representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the European Union participated in a summit on security in Nigeria on 17 May 2014. The summit was occasion for the intensification of regional and international mobilisation to fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group.

The meeting ended with several decisions which will reinforce cooperation amongst the states in the region, not only to free the young girls who were taken captive but also to intensify the fight against Boko Haram. The partners at the meeting (France, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the European Union) committed themselves to support this regional cooperation and to increase the international means required to fight Boko Haram and to protect the victims. All the states reasserted their commitment to the respect of human rights, in particular the protection of the rights of young girls who are victims of violence, forced marriages or threatened with slavery.

- Regional cooperation.

Nigeria and its neighbours will develop the capacity to analyse and to react thereby contributing to reinforce the security of the population and the rule of law in all the zones affected by the terrorist activities of Boko Haram.

To fight against the threat emanating from Boko Haram, which of recent carried out several deadly attacks and kidnapped over 270 school girls, Nigeria at its neighbours decided to immediately:

1. On a bilateral bases.

- Institute mixed patrols that are well coordinated to fight Boko Haram and search for the missing persons.
- Put in place a system of intelligence sharing so as to sustain this operational action.
- Put in place mechanisms for the exchange of information on arms trafficking and reinforce measures to secure arms stocks.
- Put in place mechanisms for the monitoring of borders.

2. On a multilateral bases.

- Put in place a unit for the convergence of intelligence.

- Institute a team dedicated to the identification of the means to be required and also to elaborate a regional strategy for the fight against Boko Haram within the Lake Chad Basin Commission.
- This approach is a logical follow-up to the Lake Chad Basin Commission which took place in 2012. The United States, the United Kingdom, France and the European Union will coordinate their support to this regional cooperation: technical expertise, training programmes, and support to programmes for the management of frontier areas.
- Action at international level.

The participants committed themselves to accelerating the process of putting up international sanctions, first of all within the ambit of the United Nations, against Boko Haram, Ansaru and their main leaders.

- Mobilisation in favour of marginalised zones and the fragile population, especially women who are exposed to all forms of violence.
- The three countries and the European Union committed to mobilising funding for programmes geared towards the socio-economic development of the regions concerned, with particular emphasis on the equality between men and women, the rights of women and girls, and especially their right to education, the reinforcement of the participation of women in all levels of decision making as well as the support of victims of sexual violence (judicial assistance, medical help and psycho-social support).
- The European Union will devote a good number of its programmes in this direction and will reinforce its fight against radicalisation.
- The participants agreed that the United Kingdom will host a meeting next month at ministerial level to review the progress on the implementation of this plan of action.



DECLARATION OF YAOUNDE

BY MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND SECURITY OF CENTRAL AFRICA (COPAX) ON THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TERRORIST GROUP BOKO HARAM

We, Heads of State of the Member States of the Council for Peace and Security of Central Africa (COPAX), meeting in Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon, on the occasion of the Extraordinary Conference of Heads of State of COPAX, devoted to the fight against Boko Haram;

1. Considering the Treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States, signed in Libreville (Republic of Gabon) on 18 October 1983;

2. Referring to the relevant provisions of the COPAX Protocol and the Mutual Assistance Pact between ECCAS Member States, signed in Malabo on 24 February 2000;

3. Concerned by the repeated and growing attacks of the terrorist group Boko Haram against the Republic of Cameroon, and the Republic of Chad;

4. Taking into consideration the negative security, economic, social and humanitarian consequences the actions of this terrorist group have on the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Chad;

5. Taking into consideration also the fact that the countries concerned are compelled to divert substantial resources that were previously earmarked for their economic and social development to the fight against this terrorist group;

6. Considering the risk posed by this terrorist group Boko Haram to destabilize the entire Central African Sub-region;

7. Aware of the need to rid Africa of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism that cannot be justified under any circumstance;

8. Noting that terrorism cannot, and should not, be

associated with any specific religion, nationality, civilization or group;

9. Referring to the various United Nations Resolutions on terrorism and violent extremism, notably Resolution 2178 of 24 September 2014, adopted at the meeting of the United Nations Security Council devoted to threats against international peace and security caused by acts of terrorism;

10. Referring to Resolutions 2195 of 19 December 2014 and 2199 of 12 February 2015 of the United Nations Security Council, devoted respectively to terrorism and organized trans-border crime, as well as to the condemnation of any form of financing of terrorism;

11. Referring to the Communiqué of the 455th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at the level of Heads of State and Government on the phenomenon of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, held on 2 September 2014 in Nairobi;

12. Referring equally to the Declaration of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Matters in Central Africa, during their 39th Session held on 5 December 2014 in Bujumbura, in support of Cameroon and Chad in the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram;

13. Taking into to consideration the Conclusions of the Meeting of Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers of Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and of Benin of 20 January 2015 in Niamey;

14. Considering the Communiqué of the 484th Meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 29th January 2015 in Addis Ababa on the terrorist group Boko Haram;

15. Building on the Conclusions of the Consultation of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS on the terrorist group Boko Haram, held on 31 January 2015, on the sidelines of the 24th Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union:

16. Strongly condemn the terrorist actions of Boko Haram in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger;

17. Equally condemn the financing and any form of support to the terrorist group Boko Haram;

18. Equally condemn the unjustifiable ambitions of this terrorist group to establish an “Islamic Caliphate” in the Lake Chad area, thereby tending to challenge national boundaries in the area;

19. Support all initiatives taken by the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the African Union and the International Community in seeking solutions to this problem, in particular, the establishment of the Multinational Joint Force (MJF);

20. Undertake to fully cooperate and at all levels with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in view of coordinating actions against the terrorist group Boko Haram;

21. Encourage in particular the Federal Republic of Nigeria to increase the synergies with the other countries of the Lake Chad Basin in the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram;

22. Congratulate the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Chad on their exemplary cooperation to wipe out the terrorist group Boko Haram;

23. Undertake to provide as soon as possible an active and multifaceted support to Cameroon, Chad and any other Member State of the Community that will be affected by the actions of this terrorist group Boko Haram, in particular military, financial, logistic and humanitarian assistance;

24. Urge the International Community to maintain and increase its multifaceted support for the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram;

25. Appeal to the United Nations and all the stakeholders involved in the resolution of the crisis in Central Africa, to speed up the political and national reconstruction process so as to enable the Central African Republic to have defence and security forces to fully control its entire territory and prevent the country from being used as a fall-back and resupply area for the terrorist group Boko Haram;

26. Mandate the Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to:

a) develop, by the end of March 2015, in collaboration with the States concerned, a plan for political-diplomatic actions, logistical support, b) set up, in this regard, within the Secretariat General, a Special Fund in view of carrying out activities in the Member States concerned;

c) maximise synergies with existing institutional partners and immediately start identifying partnership opportunities with international and local stakeholders that may come to support, technically and financially, the actions of ECCAS Member States;

d) sustain the link with the African Union in order to guarantee its multifaceted support and ensure that it is in line with the MJF;

e) ensure, the follow-up of the implementation of this Declaration and submit to us on a constant basis a Report on the evolution of the security situation in the Lake Chad Basin, as well as on all the measures undertaken in order to implement this Declaration.

Done at Yaounde, 16 February 2015



EXCERPTS OF THE SPEECH OF THE HEAD OF STATE AT THE CLOSE OF THE ECONOMIC FORUM CAMEROON-FRANCE, PARIS, 31 JANUARY 2013.

→ **President Paul BIYA gave assurances to the French business community on the improved business climate in Cameroon.**

With regard to Cameroon, I must tell that this environment has improved considerably thanks to the reforms undertaken to promote good governance and combat corruption. We intend to go even further.

Considering repeated request from investors, Cameroon's Government and private sector are reflecting on a new and more attractive system of incentives.

→ **He enumerated the investment opportunities available in Cameroon.**

The main themes jointly examined by representatives of French and Cameroonian companies and the ministers in my delegation show that there is no shortage of investment opportunities in many sectors of our economy. Our growth and Employment Strategy Paper has identified five priority investment areas, namely infrastructure, manufacturing, education, health and governance.

Similarly, our new agricultural policy, which seeks to make Cameroon "Central Africa's breadbasket" requires us to modernize our agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

There are so many sectors where joint ventures can be established between French and Cameroonian SMEs.

→ **Paul BIYA presented the new image of Cameroon's economy.**

In September 2011, I told my compatriots that the following year, Cameroon would be a "vast construction site". I was not wrong. Dams, roads, ports, and various infrastructures have sprouted up. Obviously, this has been possible thanks to the political stability we enjoy.

→ **President Paul BIYA was very optimistic on the future of Cameroon.**

Against all odds, Cameroon is forging ahead. It is aware that to achieve its objectives, it will need its external partners, be they States or private companies. It also understands that everyone must derive benefit, in a win-win partnership, to use a well-known expression.

(...)
Is Cameroon a good risk? We believe so and say so. Does Cameroon have a future? We equally believe so and say so. That is why I urge you to seize the opportunities that are available today so as to participate in developing the Cameroon of tomorrow.

→ **President Paul BIYA hailed the partnership between France and Cameroon.**

I seize this opportunity to express our appreciation for the French Government's efforts to support our development projects in various domains.

(...) In this light, I must hail the special partnership that my country maintains with France and French business. The results we have achieved so far are due largely to our French partners.

In this regard, the French Development Agency (AFD) occupies a prime place. It has successfully executed the first debt Relief and Development Contract (C2D), prompting, the preparation of the second C2D as well as its adoption by other countries.

Would also like to highlight the contribution of the numerous French groups I mentioned at the beginning of my presentation. Through their technologies, expertise and know-how, they continue to work towards my country's economic take-off.

Let me reassure them that my Government and I remain at their disposal to provide the best conditions to enable them to reach their full potential.



FRANCE AND CAMEROON: A STRONG AND LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIP

Political and Diplomatic relationships

The bilateral relations between Cameroon and France are very old. Indeed, historically, Cameroon was under mandate (1919-1945), then under supervision (1945-1960) Franco-British. These relationships are equally close, rich and diverse, thanks to a legal framework of cooperation that is particularly expanded by common important achievements.

At the diplomatic level, Cameroon and France established diplomatic relations in 1960, at the level of Ambassadors. Currently, the Ambassador of France to Cameroon is Her Excellency Mrs. Christine ROBICHON. She presented her credentials to President Paul BIYA on the 8th of November 2013, replacing Bruno GAIN, who spent four years (2009-2013) in this position. The Ambassador of Cameroon to France is His Excellency Lejeune MBELLA MBELLA, who presented his credentials on the 28th of March 2007.

Within the framework of the transformation of the French consular network in Cameroon, the French Consulate in Garoua was closed in December 2009. A Consular agency headed by an Honorary Consul was opened in 2011 in this city. The Honorary Consul of France in Garoua and Director of the French Union of Garoua is Pierre BARBIER.

High-level visit exchanges between Cameroon and France are numerous and they experience a certain dynamism. President Paul BIYA paid an official visit to Paris in July 2006. He paid a work visit to France in October 2007. He again made an official visit to

France from the 21st to the 24th of July 2009 and he participated to the summit in Nice in May 2010, and the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of Africa's independence in Paris on the 13th and 14th of July 2010.

On the occasion of a work visit to France, President Paul Biya met with President Francois HOLLANDE at Elysee on the 30th of January, 2013. He also participated to the Elysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa, on the 6th and 7th of December 2013, as well as the Paris summit on security in Nigeria, on the 17th of May 2014.

Conversely, Jacques CHIRAC, President of the French Republic, came to Yaounde on a state visit in 1999. He returned to Cameroon from the 17th to the 19th of January 2001 within the framework of France-Africa Summit.

In total, for the past five years, there have been ten (10) meetings between heads of state of both countries, including that of the 30th of November 2014 in Dakar on the side-lines of the 15th summit of the Francophonie, that of the 15th of August 2014 in Toulon (France), within the framework of the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the landing in Provence and that of the 13th of October 2012 in Kinshasa, on the side-lines of the 14th summit of the Francophonie. During the same period, there were no less than twenty-three (23) bilateral meetings, two (02) of which at the parliamentary level, seven (07) at the ministerial level and eight (08) at the level of envoys (Councillors, Heads of political parties, trade union leaders, etc.).



FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE'S BIOGRAPHY

François HOLLANDE was born on the 12th of August 1954 in Rouen. He has four children.

First Secretary of the Socialist Party (from 1997 to 2008), Mayor of Tulle (from 2001 to 2008), he was Member of Parliament for Corrèze (from 1988 to 1993 and from 1997 to 2012) and Chairman of the General Council of Corrèze (from 2008 to 2012).

François HOLLANDE graduated from HEC Paris and the Institute of Political Studies in Paris.

He is a graduate from the National School of Administration (ENA), Voltaire Promotion in 1980.

He joined the Socialist Party in 1979. Graduating from ENA, he became auditor at the Court of Auditors in 1980. At that time, he is also a lecturer at IEP in Paris.

In 1981, after the election of François MITTERRAND as President of the Republic, François HOLLANDE became project leader at the Elysee. During the legislative elections of June 1981, François HOLLANDE was a candidate in Corrèze.

In 1983, he was appointed Chief of Staff of two successive spokesmen of the Pierre MAUROY Government: Max GALLO and Roland DUMAS. In 1984, he became public auditor at the Court of Auditors.

In the legislative elections of 1988, which followed the re-election of François MITTERRAND, he

was elected Member of Parliament of the first district of Corrèze.

From 1988 to 1991, he was an Economics professor at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris. In 1993, he lost his mandate as Member of Parliament. He became president of the "Temoin" club of Jacques DELORS that he held until 1997.

He became national secretary of the Socialist Party in charge of Economic issues, in November 1994. And in 1995, Lionel JOSPIN appointed him spokesman of the Socialist Party.

In 1997, after the victory of the plural left, François HOLLANDE regained his seat of Member of Parliament of Corrèze and became First Secretary of the Socialist Party.

7th President of the Vth Republic.

He officially declared himself candidate for the Socialist primary, in March 2011, and won in October 2011.

In May 2012, François HOLLANDE became the 7th President of the Vth Republic.

Source : <http://www.elysee.fr/la-presidence/francois-hollande-biographie/>



BIOGRAPHY OF HIS EXCELLENCY PAUL BIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

President Paul BIYA was born on 13 February 1933 at Mvomeka'a, Meyomesalla Sub-division, Dja-et-Lobo Division, South Region to the Late Etienne Mvondo Assam and Mvondo Anastasie Eyenga Elle. President Biya, who is the second Head of State of Cameroon assumed office on 6 November 1982 following the resignation of President Ahmadou Ahidjo.

1. Education

Primary Education: Nden, culminating in the First School Leaving Certificate (CEPE) in 1948.

Secondary Education: St. Tharcissus pre-Seminary Edea (1948-50), Minor Seminary Akono (1951-54), culminating in a secondary school certificate, (BEPC) in June 1953.

High School Education: Lycee General Leclerc High School (1954-55), culminating in a Baccalaureat Part 1 Certificate in June 1955, and the Lycee Louis le Grand in Paris culminating in the Baccalaureat certificate Part 2 in June 1956.

University Education: Degree in Public Law, Graduate of the Institute of Political Science, Paris and the Institute of Advanced Overseas Studies (IHEOM), and holder of a post-graduate diploma in Public Law.

2. Professional Development and Career

- Senior Policy Adviser (Charge de Mission) in the Presidency of the Republic: October 1962;
- Director of Cabinet (Chief of Staff), Ministry of National Education: January 1964;
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Education: July 1965;
- Director of the Civil Cabinet (Chief of Staff), Presidency of the Republic: December 1967;

- Secretary General and Director of the Civil Cabinet: January 1968;
- Minister of State, Secretary General in the Presidency of the Republic: June 1970;
- Prime Minister: 30 June 1975;
- Prime Minister and Constitutional Successor: 29 June 1979;
- President of the Republic following the resignation of President Ahmadou Ahidjo : 6 November 1982.

3. Achievements as President of the Republic

On taking the oath of office, President promised to democratize the political life, introduce social and economic liberalization, rigour in the management of public affairs, moralization of attitudes and reinforce international cooperation. In this connection, he was:

- Elected President of the Cameroon National Union (CNU): 14 September 1983;
- Elected President of the Cameroon Peoples Democratic Party (CPDM) on the transformation of the CNU in Bamenda: 24 March 1985 and re-elected in all the party's subsequent congresses;
- Elected President of the Republic on 14 January 1984 and 24 April 1988 under the one-party democratic system;
- Elected President of the Republic under the multi-party democratic system on 11 October 1992, 12 October 1997, 11 October 2004, and 9 October 2011;
- Elected Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) for 1996-97 and that of the CEMAC and ECCAS on many occasions.

In 1990, President BIYA said he will like to be remembered as the one who brought democracy and prosperity in Cameroon. Today, Cameroon stands out as one of the most democratic countries in Africa with some 254 political parties, 308 foreign association and 47 religious associations. The country also has over 600 private newspapers, 98 private radio stations, and 19 private TV stations.

A committed democrat, President BIYA believes in power-sharing and shared responsibility in governance, which explains his interest in forming governing coalitions with Opposition parties since 1992 in spite of his crushing majority in Parliament.

President BIYA is highly respected as a “Wiseman of Africa” and for his international peace, security,

development and humanitarian initiatives, which have earned him a number of international recognitions and awards, the latest being that of the Pan-African Lawyer’s Union of 6 June 2014 for peaceful resolution of conflicts.

President BIYA has been married to Mrs. Chantal BIYA since 23 April 1994 and is a father of three: Frank BIYA, Paul BIYA Jnr., and Anastasie Brenda Eyenga BIYA.



HIGH-LEVEL ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN PRESIDENT PAUL BIYA AND H.E FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE

1. The 14th Summit of La Francophonie in Kinshasa (DR Congo).

On October 13, 2012, His Excellency Paul BIYA had a face-to-face conversation with his French counterpart, President François Hollande.

The Cameroonian leader told reporters at the end of the meeting that they had cordial and frank discussions and he used the opportunity to congratulate the French President for his election to the high office. He also reminded him of the strong cooperation ties between Cameroon and France. They discussed a wide range of other issues, including the Gulf of Guinea and Mali, places where there are problems of insecurity.

It was during this first-ever meeting between both leaders that President Paul BIYA formerly invited President François Hollande to pay an official visit to Cameroon.

2. Working visit to Paris – January 28-February 7, 2013

President Paul BIYA was in Paris for a working visit on January 28-February 7, 2013. He was accompanied by his wife, First Lady Chantal BIYA. Four important moments marked this visit: an encounter with President François Hollande, an interview with the international media, a meeting with French businessmen, and audiences granted to the Cameroon Diaspora in France.

The January 30 discussion with President François Hollande took place at the Elysée Palace. Here, both statesmen shared numerous views on their respective countries. Furthermore, President Paul BIYA responded, without mincing words, to all the preoccupations of journalists at the courtyard of the Elysée Palace (see interview with the international media).

This was followed by an economic forum with French businessmen on January 31, 2013. Present at the event dubbed "Sustainable Partnership between France and Cameroon", were members of the presidential delegation, Cameroonian business representatives, and French entrepreneurs under the leadership of Mr. Michel ROUSSIN, Vice-President of the French International Movement of Enterprises (MEDEF).

President Paul Biya used the opportunity to highlight Cameroon's new pathway of economic growth. He proposed that French investors should visit and exploit opportunities in Cameroon and help her towards the attainment of emergence (see by President Paul BIYA's closing speech at the Cameroon-France Forum, Paris, January 31, 2013).

H.E. Paul BIYA granted 17 audiences on February 1, 4 and 6, 2013. He met with political leaders and heads of international organisations such as Valéry Giscard D'ESTAING, Irina BOKOVA, and Claude GUEANT. This group was followed by businessmen like DOV ZERAH, Olivier STIRN, Alexandre VILGRAIN, Bruno LAFONT, Yannick MORILLON, Guillaume Giscard D'STAING, Clara GAYMARD, Gimmy RICCI, and Vincent BOLLORE. Three communication experts equally had the privilege to meet the Head of State. They were Herve BOURGES, Stephane FOUKS, and Patricia BALME.

In addition, two memorable audiences were granted to a delegation of the Cameroonian Diaspora in France and the Franco-Cameroonian Judo Champion, Gevrise ENAME. This was the first time President Paul Biya met with a large and prosperous group of his compatriots. There was an expression of interest and confidence towards the august guests. Discussions centred on issues such as dual nationality and the creation of an administrative unit to handle the affairs of Cameroonians abroad. The patriotic guests promised to support the greater achievements political agenda of H.E Paul Biya.

3. Peace and Security Summit in Africa, Paris (December 6-7, 2013).

Heads of State and Government from Africa and France reiterated their commitment to promote security in Africa during this summit. They also expressed their desire to promote human rights in conformity to the principles of the UN Charter and consultative acts of the AU.

The leaders agreed on the reinforcement of strategic dialogues for collective security in managing threats.

Heads of State and Government further requested for a greater international mobilisation to fund African

peacekeeping operations. France, a Permanent Member of the Security Council, promised to constantly play a major role in this domain.

Terrorist networks were identified to be a global threat to peace and security, especially in Africa where these criminals are gaining new grounds. Thus, leaders of the Paris Summit were unanimously in favour for the absolute involvement of international, regional and sub-regional organisations in the fight against this phenomenon. They envisaged increased partnership in the sharing of intelligence.

4. Paris Security Summit on Nigeria (May 17, 2014).

H.E Paul BIYA intensified regional and international mobilisation on the fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group. This was done in collaboration with his counterparts from Benin, France, Nigeria, Niger, Chad, USA, UK and the EU during the May 17, 2014 security summit in Paris.

Speaking during a joint-press conference, President Paul BIYA thanked President François HOLLANDE who initiated the meeting. He said: "Boko Haram has ceased to be a problem only for Nigeria, it has become a for the region, why not the continent. We are here to declare war on Boko Haram" (See conclusions of the Paris Security Summit on Nigeria, May 17, 2014).

5. 4th EU-Africa Summit, Brussels (April 2-3, 2014).

President Paul BIYA took part in the 4th EU-Africa Summit alongside Heads of State and Government in Africa and the European Union like President François Hollande. Under the theme, "Invest in people, prosperity and peace", the reunion focused on the amelioration of the living standards of citizens through an EU-Africa plan.

H.E Paul BIYA made two presentations on the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), and during the

first working session on "peace and security". Once again, he pressed for the implementation of the UN's financial, humanitarian and military programme and commitments in the CAR. He also appealed for "solid and concerted action to reduce poverty".

6. 70th Anniversary of Provence Landings (August 15, 2014).

H.E François HOLLANDE, President of the Republic of France officially invited President Paul Biya and other African leaders to attend the 70th Anniversary of the 1944 Provence Landings, which took place in Toulon, France on August 15, 2014.

This event was aimed at recognising allied soldiers, especially Africans (Cameroonians too) who fought for the liberation of France.

Cameroon's Head of State used the occasion to grant audiences to top French officials notably to Mr Jean-Yves Le DRAIN, French Minister of Defence.

7. 15th Summit of La Francophonie in Dakar (November 30, 2014).

President Paul BIYA and H.E François HOLLANDE had a 30-minute conversation during the 15th Summit of the OIF in Dakar, Senegal.

Since independence in 1960, all French Heads of State, except Nicolas SARKOZY, have been to Cameroon (De Gaulle in 1953, Pompidou in February 1971, Giscard d'Estaing on February 8-10, 1979, Mitterrand in June 1983, Chirac on July 23-24, 1999 and January 17-19, 2001). Nevertheless, President Nicolas SARKOZY officially invited President Paul Biya at the Elysée Palace on July 21-24 2009. He equally addressed invitations to his Cameroonian counterpart during the 25th France-Africa Summit in Nice from May 31 to June 1, 2010, and on activities marking the 50th anniversary of African independence on July 13-14, 2010.



RECENT VISITS BY TOP FRENCH OFFICIALS TO CAMEROON

Ministerial visits

- **May 15, 2015:** French Interior Minister, Bernard CAZENEUVE was received at the Unity Palace by President Paul BIYA. Mr CAZENEUVE told reporters that "Paris and Yaounde have confidence of each other at such a high level that nothing can alter". He reaffirmed France's determination to support Cameroon in the fight against Boko Haram. The French Interior Minister also visited the FCFA 140 million French-sponsored International School of Security Forces (EIFORCES) in Awae. This was in the company of Cameroon's Minister-Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Defence, Edgard Alain MEBE NGO'O.
- **February 21-22, 2015:** H.E Paul BIYA and Professor Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo separately granted audiences to Mr Laurent FABIUS, French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development, at the Unity Palace and the Ministry of External Relations respectively. The French Minister reiterated his country's commitment to provide logistics and intelligence in the war against Boko Haram. He equally stressed that France shall, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, make proposals for the creation of a multinational joint task force to suppress the Islamist sect.
- **December 31, 2013:** Minister Laurent FABIUS arrived in Cameroon after the liberation of Father Georges VANDENBEUSCH who was kidnapped in northern Cameroon by Boko Haram.
- **April 19, 2013:** Mr Laurent FABIUS, French Minister of Foreign Affairs came to the Unity Palace. Here, he thanked President Paul Biya for his involvement in the release, from Boko Haram captivity, of members of the Moulin-Fournier family.
- **March 15-16, 2013:** Working visit to Cameroon by Minister Laurent FABIUS on the release of the French citizens in the Far North region abducted on February 19, 2013 by Boko Haram.
- **February 1-3, 2012:** Mr Edouard COURTIAL, French Secretary of State in charge of the French Diaspora met with the French community in Cameroon.
- **June 29 to July 1, 2011:** French Minister of Cooperation, Mr Henri De RAINCOURT signed the second Debt Reduction and Development (C2D) agreement worth FCFA 213 billion. He was also received at the Unity Palace by President Paul BIYA.
- **May 18-19, 2010:** French personalities participated in the Africa 21 Conference in prelude to Cameroon's 50th anniversary of independence. H.E Paul BIYA received the following officials: President Nicolas SARKOZY's representative – Mr Jean-Louis BOORLO (French Minister of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Ocean, in charge of Green Technologies and Climate Change Negotiations); Alain JOYANDET (Secretary of State in charge of Cooperation and La Francophonie); Michel ROCARD (former Prime Minister); Michel CHARASSE (member the French Constitutional Council); Michel ROUSSIN (former minister, President of the African Committee of MEDEF, and Vice President of the Bollore group in Africa); and Patricia BALME (President of PB Com International).
- **May 20-22, 2009:** Prime Minister Francios FILLON signed three agreements with President Paul BIYA. It involved the following: the management of migration, partnership in security and defence, and the second convention of AFD-C2D on health. Mr FILLION also visited the construction site of the fly-over at the Governor's Office in Yaounde.
- **October 7-8, 2008:** Mr Alain JOYANDET (French Secretary of State in charge of Cooperation and La Francophonie) attended a Franc Zone Finance Ministers' meeting with Mrs Anne-Marie IDRAC (French Secretary of State in charge of External Trade). Mr JOYANDET made a stopover at the MUNA Foundation and a professional incorporation project in Biyem-Assi. On her part, Mrs IDRAC met Cameroon's Prime Minister and paid a visit to C2D construction sites in Douala.
- **May 18-20, 2008:** Visit of Mr. Brice HORTEFEUX, French Minister of Immigration, Integration, National Identity, and Social Development.
- **October 1-3, 2007:** Mr Jean-Marie BOCKEL,

French Secretary of State of Development and La Francophonie signed two financial conventions related to the Solidarity Priority Fund to support decentralisation and security.

- **June 26, 2006:** Madam Brigitte GIRARDIN, French Minister-Delegate of Cooperation, Francophonie and Development signed the C2D agreement.

Visits at the Parliamentary level

- **January 26-30, 2015:** Right Honourable CAVAYE YEGUIE Djibril (Speaker of the National Assembly) and Minister Emmanuel NGANOUDJOUMESSI (Economy, Planning and Regional Development) separately welcomed a French Parliamentary delegation led by Philippe BAUMEL (PS), member of the foreign affairs commission, and Pierre LELLOUCHE (UMP).
- **October 26-27, 2014:** President Paul BIYA met Mr Claude BARTOLONE (Speaker of the French National Assembly). The French MP was accompanied by Patricia ADAM (PS), president of the Defence Commission, and Alain MARSAUD (UMP) MP of the French Diaspora. This delegation later met with former and current students who are beneficiaries of French-sponsored scholarships. They also visited the International School of War.
- **June 5, 2014:** Andre SCHNEIDER, President of the France-Cameroon Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group led a delegation to the Unity Palace. Discussions with President Paul Biya centred on the proper functioning of institutions, security, funding of infrastructural projects and the improvement of the standards of living.

Other visits

- May 27, 2015: Jean-Louis BOORLO (former French Minister of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development

and the Sea, and current President of Energy for Africa Foundation) had a meeting with H.E Paul Biya. He appealed for the help of African leaders to support the Foundation's goal to electrify Africa. He also visited the Nachtigal power plant.

- **May 26, 2015:** French investor Benjamin de ROTHCHILD was received by First lady Chantal BIYA at the main residence of the Unity Palace.
- **July 18, 2013:** Visit to Cameroon by Mr Yves BOUDOT, Director of the French Cooperation Agency (AFD) in Sub-Saharan Africa to evaluate AFD activities in Cameroon. He was welcomed by Prime Minister Philemon YANG.
- **June 12-16, 2013:** A special envoy of President François Hollande, Mr Nicolas HULOT held discussions with Prime Minister Philemon YANG. The Head of Government was assisted by Cameroon's Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, and the Minister of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development. Talks were focused on the protection of endangered species and the sustainable management of Cameroon's forest.
- **October 22-24, 2012:** The Commander of the French Forces in Gabon, Brigadier General TOUTOUS Jean Jacques arrives in Cameroon.
- **March 21-22, 2011:** AFD's Director, Mr DOV ZERAH was received at the Unity Palace by H.E Paul BIYA to discuss on development projects in Cameroon and French aid in the second generation of the C2D.
- **February 9-13, 2009:** Mr Jean Michel SEVERINO, Director General of the French Cooperation Agency (AFD) was welcomed at the Unity Palace by President Paul BIYA. The Frenchman later signed a 50 million Euro Convention with the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development. The money was earmarked for the second phase of the C2D.



CONSULAR AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

Officially, close to 30,000 Cameroonians live in France. About 10,000 of them still face difficulties to obtain living permits.

Over 12,000 French citizens are resident in Cameroon.

Migration between France and Cameroon has been fixed by the May 21, 2009 Convention on the management of migration and social development.

In addition, the signing of the December 2006 leasehold contract by the Ministry of State Property and Land Tenure has authorised the enlargement of French diplomatic and consular estates in Cameroon.

In November 2006, France and Cameroon held a joint commission meeting in Paris on social security to curb the sufferings of French and Cameroonian pensioners.

On the other hand, over 7,000 Cameroonians are studying in France. The French Government has always granted scholarships to study in France or in Cameroon. 65 Cameroonian scholars shall travel to France in 2015. Estimates suggest that 1,297 Cameroonian

students benefitted from these scholarships to the sum of FCFA 6.5 billion from 2005-2015.

Cooperation in agriculture and health research has been boosted by an 8.2 million Euro C2D fund since 2012. French technical assistance has been recorded in the Support Pool for Professionalization in Higher Education in Central Africa (PAPEAC). A total of 29 international experts have been mobilised to strengthen French technical assistance in Cameroon.

In October 1998, a FCFA 900 million convention was signed in Yaounde to develop activities of non-institutional cultural associations with the aid of the French-Cameroon Cultural Institute.

In February 1999, France supported the National Advanced School of Polytechnic via a project referred to as UNICAM 2000. It was aimed at promoting professionalism, excellence and regionalisation.

Since January 1, 2012, the François Villon Cultural Centre in Yaounde and the Blaise Cendrars Centre in Douala merged to form the French Institute in Cameroon, which now has the status of the services of the French Embassy to Cameroon.



DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION

French military assistance traditionally comes in three forms namely: personnel, training and weaponry.

Cameroon is an important architect of peace and security in Central Africa and the Gulf of Guinea. She is France's major partner on defence and security cooperation.

Prime Minister François FILLON renewed France-Cameroon defence agreements during his visit to Yaounde in May 2009. This new partnership became effective on August 1, 2012 to replace that of 1974.

These agreements seek to revamp Africa's collective security mechanisms at the regional and continental levels. Principally, there shall be training at the National School of Regional Vocation (ENVR), the National Aeronautic Pool of Regional Vocation in Garoua (PANVR), the Inter-military Supreme Court of Defence, the International School of Security Forces (EIFORCES), and the Centre for Skilled Techniques to Maintain Order (CPTMO).

In 2006, Cameroon hosted exercises of the Reinforce Capacities to Maintain Peace (RECAMP) project in Douala. This was graced

with the presence of high-ranking French military officers notably Mr Pierre-Andre WILTZER (representative of Madam Michele ALLIOT-MARIE, the then French Minister of Defence).

Bruno Clement-BOLLÉE, Director of Defence and Security Cooperation at the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, and the General of the French military corps, was in Cameroon from November 28 to December 1, 2011 to evaluate cooperation projects. He succeeded to hold talks with civil and military authorities to strengthen defence and security partnerships between Cameroon and France.

On April 25, 2014, the first Cameroon-France working session of the Follow-up Committee of an Amended Defence Accord which was signed on May 21, 2009, took place in Yaounde. The final document was ratified by Cameroon in 2012 and it opened more training opportunities to its troops. Also, it has led to the establishment of permanent partnerships, direct logistical aid, support to training schools such as the International Advance War (ESIG), the International School of Security Forces (EIFORCES), and the School of High-ranking Officers (EEM).



PRESIDENT PAUL BIYA'S CALL FOR A GLOBAL RESPONSE AGAINST BOKO HARAM BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

In a speech to the diplomatic corps on January 8, 2015, H.E Paul Biya requested for an international mobilisation to stop the barbaric acts of the Boko Haram terrorist group in Cameroon and Nigeria.

The Head of State emphasised on the need for a collective response by the international community, especially the African Union and regional organisations, in order to tackle Boko Haram threats. He therefore made this famous declaration: "Global threat, global riposte."

President Paul Biya's appeal was immediately considered as it kick-started condemnations from the AU. Heads of State and Government, meeting in Addis Ababa during the 24th AU Summit, unanimously classified as horrible, terrorist attacks by Boko Haram.

On her part, the AU Chairperson, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma noted that Boko Haram constituted an enormous threat on security and development to Nigeria, the region and the entire continent.

Consequently, Africa has an obligation to provide the necessary support to Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin, in conformity to the principles of African solidarity and unanimity for peace and security in the continent.

Madam Dlamini-Zuma pleaded for a "collective response" against Boko Haram.

The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon welcomed the AU's drive to create a regional force to fight

against the Nigeria-based Islamist sect – Boko Haram.

He denounced the "baseless brutality" of the Boko Haram insurgents. Mr Ban KI-MOON suggested that there should be "an international and regional cooperation" to repress the activities of this group.

The Peace and Security Council of the AU recommended the creation of a 7,500-man regional military force to combat the Islamist sect.

Military experts moved into action with the holding of a meeting on February 5-7, 2015 in Yaounde. The main agenda was the putting in place of the Rules of Engagement to guide the operations of the multinational joint task force against Boko Haram.

Mindful of the resolutions taken at the 5th Meeting of Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers' of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin, which took place in Niamey, Niger, on January 20, 2015, member countries decided to increase the number of troops to 8,700. The capital of Chad, Ndjamena, was chosen as headquarters of the aforementioned military taskforce.

On January 31, 2015, Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in prelude to the 24th Summit of the AU and castigated the barbaric acts of Boko Haram on member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

The ECCAS leaders acknowledged the fraternal support from H.E Idriss DERBY ITNO, President of the Republic of Chad, who sent an important contingent Chadian troops to join Cameroon fight the Boko Haram insurgents.

They also took a decision to activate the appropriate mechanisms of the regional bloc such as the Mutual Assistance Pact of ECCAS member countries. The provisions of the Central African Peace and Security Council (COPAX) Protocol were also

used to establish a sub-regional strategy to assist Cameroon and Chad, which are witnessing Boko Haram raids.

Accordingly, Heads of State and Government of ECCAS adopted a proposition to hold an extraordinary session of COPAX in Yaounde on February 16, 2015. This Summit took place after a meeting of the COPAX Defence and Security Commission on February 11-12, 2014 and the COPAX Council of Defence Ministers on February 14, 2015.



PRESENTATION OF FRANCE

France is a country in Western Europe. She shares territorial boundaries with the North Sea and the English Channel (northwest), the Atlantic Ocean (west), Spain (southwest), the Mediterranean (south), Italy (south east), Switzerland (east), and Germany Luxembourg and Belgium (north-east).

The country is made up of the Metropolitan France (mainland France and Corsica), five Overseas Departments (Guyana, Martinique, Reunion, Guadeloupe, Saint Pierre and Miquelon), and four Overseas Territories with special status (Mayotte, Wallis and Futuna, New Caledonia, French Polynesia).

National Motto: "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity"

National Anthem "La Marseillaise"

Administration

- ◆ Type of State: Republic
- ◆ Head of State: François HOLLANDE
- ◆ Official languages: French
- ◆ Capital: Paris

Geography

- ◆ Total area: 551,602 km² (Metropolitan France)
- w Main cities: Paris, Marseille, Lyon, Bordeaux, Lille, Toulouse, Strasbourg, Nantes, Montpellier

History

- ◆ National Day: July 14
- ◆ Demographics:
 - Population: 66,317,994 inhabitants (January 2015)
 - Density: 97 inhabitants / km²
 - Population growth:
 - Life expectancy: 78.2 years (men) 85 years (women)
 - Literacy rate:

- Religion (s): Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism, Judaism, Buddhism
- Human Development Index: 0.884 (in 2013)

Economy

- Currency: Euro
- Total GDP (in billions of Euros): 2088.8 (2014)
- ◆ GDP /inhabitant: 45384 Euros (2014) against 31,059 Euros in 2013
- ◆ GDP growth: 0.1% (2014)
- ◆ Inflation: 0.5% (2014) against 2% in 2013
- ◆ Public debt: 95.2% of GDP (2014) against 91.7% of GDP (2013)
- ◆ Unemployment rate: 10.4% (2014) of the working population
- ◆ Public deficit: 4.4% of GDP (2014)
- ◆ Leading importers and suppliers: Germany, Italy, Belgium, Spain, the UK and the US.
- In early 2015, France lost its position as the 5th largest economic power to the benefit of the UK. However, its GDP increased for the first time greater than Germany, the largest economy in the euro area.
- France exports agricultural products, manufactured goods including machinery and transport equipments, etc. Major French industrial groups are: ALSTOM, EDF-GDF, TOTALFINAELF, PEUGEOT, RENAULT and AIRBUS.
- External Trade activities are directed towards Germany, Italy, Belgium, Spain, the UK and USA, which are both importers and providers of France.
- France is the second trading partner of Cameroon after Nigeria.



PRESENTATION OF CAMEROON

Cameroon is a country in Central and West Africa. She shares boundaries with Nigeria (west), the Atlantic Ocean (southwest), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Congo (south), the Central African Republic and Chad (east), Lake Chad (north). Situated at the heart of Africa, Cameroon has a diverse relief, climate and flora. It is for this reason that she is nicknamed "Africa in miniature".

Motto: "Peace, Work, Fatherland"

National Anthem: "O Cameroon, Cradle of Our Fathers"

Administration

- ◆ Type of State: Republic
- ◆ Head of State: Paul Biya
- ◆ Official languages: French, English
- ◆ Capital: Yaounde

Geography

- Total Area: 475 442 km²
- Top Cities: Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam, Garoua, Maroua, Bamenda, Ngaoundere, Buea.

History

- Date of Independence January 1, 1960 (Cameroon under French administration)
- October 1, 1961 (Cameroon under British administration)
- National Day: May 20

Demographics

- Population: 21.7 million inhabitants (World Bank) (ranked 56th)

- Density: 44.8 inhabitants / km² (WB, 2012)
- Population growth: 2.54% (WB, 2012)
- Life expectancy: 52.1 years (UNDP, 2012)
- Literacy rate: 70.7% (UNESCO 2012)
- Religion (s): Christianity (35-40%), Islam (15-20%), animism (45%).
- Human Development Index: 150th out of 187 (UNDP, 2012)

Economy

- Currency: CFA (XAF BEAC)
- Nominal GDP 2013: 27.88 USD
- 2013 GDP / inhabitant : 1,268
- 2013 GDP growth rate: 4.6%
- Inflation rate (2013): 2.1%
- 2013 Budget balance (percentage of GDP): 3.3%
- 2013 Trade balance (percentage of GDP): -8.8%
- Main customers in 2012: China (15.3%), Portugal (11.4%), the Netherlands (11.3%)
- Main providers 2012: Nigeria (17.8%), France (11.9%), China (10.4%)
- Main sectors in GDP: agriculture: 18.4% industry; 23.2%, mining 8.8%, services: 43.4%.
- 2013 Annual Oil Production: 24,3 million barrel



FRENCH OFFICIAL POLICY OF PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Four strategic issues account for the French development cooperation policy:

- Contribution to inclusive and sustainable growth;
- Fight against poverty and reducing inequality;
- Preservation of the Environment and global public property;
- Promotion of the rule of law as a development factor.

French cultural, diplomatic and economic cooperation is influential in sub-Saharan Africa and the Mediterranean Basin. This cooperation has been witnessed during interventions in countries faced with crisis. Sub-Saharan Africa is a priority area on the French development policy because of its geographical and cultural proximity. The policy is also based on common challenges and opportunities that this rising continent is facing.

France intends to carry the following actions in Africa:

- Support sustainable growth and job creation, particularly through the development of infrastructure in the private sector;
- Support growth to help in the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- Provide actions for achieving the MDGs, strengthening the rule of law and democratic governance.

On July 26, 2006, the Prime Minister, Head of Government of Cameroon and Madam Brigitte GIRARDIN, French Minister-Delegate of Cooperation, La Francophonie and Development, signed a Partnership Framework Document (DCP) and the Debt Reduction and Development Contract (C2D) covering the period 2006-2010.

This agreement with Cameroon is the biggest C2D ever signed by France. It enables Cameroon to have unprecedented aid packages to the sum of FCFA 65 to

70 billion (100 to 106,000,000 Euros) per year. In total, 537 million Euros were placed for the first C2D (2006-2011). 80% of French aid in Cameroon is focused on:

- Health and the fight against HIV/AIDS;
- Basic education;
- Infrastructure;
- Agriculture and food security.

During his visit to Cameroon from October 1-3, 2007, the French Secretary of State for Cooperation and La Francophonie, Jean-Marie BOCKEL conducted a review of the Franco-Cameroonian cooperation. The French minister took part in the Steering Committee meetings on the DCP and the C2D (COP and COS).

These two structures are the cardinal points of a large part of the economic and technical cooperation with France.

Furthermore, on February 6, 2015, the France-Africa Forum was held in Paris under the theme "Inclusive growth: reinforcing the economic partnership with Africa". During this meeting, Cameroon was represented by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Emmanuel NGANOU DJOUMESSI, and the Minister of Finance, ALAMINE OUSMANE MEY. The major conclusion of this Forum was the creation of Franco-African Foundation for Growth. It shall be a catalyst for the renewal of economic relationship between France and Africa, by mobilizing among others, the French and African civil society towards Africa. The Foundation shall double French investments in Africa, particularly through the establishment of a new model of cooperation between the two partners.

For more information on the France development policy, follow:
<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/aide-au-developpement-1060>



PROSPECTS FOR FRENCH COOPERATION IN CAMEROON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Since 1999, French cooperation in Cameroon is aimed at:

- a) **Strengthening the rule of law and institutions:** strengthening of general and human security, human rights protection and the consolidation of democracy, and improving the effective functioning of the State;
- b) **Improving the competitiveness of the economy and boosting the productive sectors;**
- c) **Participation of the civil society in development and the fight against poverty.** The French assistance to this sector focuses on the direct funding of projects, buying of services and outsourcing within a framework decided by the Government. Regarding the fight against poverty, assistance is targeted towards the social, urban, basic education, health and decentralisation sectors.

In addition, France will continue its support in the national research systems, and the promotion of coherent actions taken by other donors.

On January 19, 2007, the French Ambassador to Cameroon announced a major financial aid package from his country under the Strengthening Agricultural Extension Partnership in Cameroon (REPARAC) programme during a visit to the National Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD).

France-Cameroon cooperation has continued in the agro-pastoral, fisheries and forestry sectors. Support comes in through the introduction of new agricultural policies, the mastering of project analysis, the professionalization of agriculture, the reforms in major sectors (cocoa, coffee, palm oil, banana, etc.), and the restructuring of inter-professional organizations (notably the Chamber of Agriculture). France is prepared to support Cameroon in the provision of portable water and food security in the rural areas.

The Transport Sector Programme (PST) is a reliable instrument in the transport and infrastructure domains through partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD). France is ready, mainly through the

AFD, to support Cameroon's actions in developing the maritime, railway, air, and road infrastructure. It also plans to support the privatization of road maintenance with an increase of multifaceted financial assistance (deposits, guarantees, funds) to the capacity of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.

Cameroon's massive potential in the tourism sector remains unexploited. Thus, a blend of the French experience in this area would be beneficial.

French assistance in health-related issues is intended to continue on agreed terms, mainly in rural areas (health districts) to fight against major endemic diseases and emerging diseases. The acceleration of hospital reforms are challenges that need to be addressed especially with the specialisation of potential Cameroonian doctors in French universities.

In the field of youth management and the promotion of sports, France intends to continue the facilitation of a better coordination between associations and State institutions.

France also helps to train stakeholders in the primary, secondary and higher education sectors.

However, the training of Cameroonians living in France still presents problems that should be addressed such as:

- The particularly difficult requirements in terms of registration, financing and hospitality in the French Consulates;
- The harmonization of university degrees and the renewal of residence permits for students;
- The inaccessibility into faculties like medicine and pharmacy;
- The demand of a high deposit bank account (FCFA 4,560,000 per year, or FCFA 380,000 per month).

Enrolment of Cameroonian students in France is decreasing annually because of the aforementioned reasons as opposed to Germany and the USA which have witnessed a significant increase in the last five years.



WHAT PRESIDENT PAUL BIYA SAID...

❖ ON BOKO HARAM.

1. Statement on the occasion of the reception of freed French hostages (Moulin-Fournier family) at Unity Palace – Yaounde, 19 April 2013

The happy ending to this incident is definitely the result of exemplary cooperation between the French, Nigerian and Cameroonian Governments. Their services showed remarkable efficiency and great discretion.

The main lesson I learn from this incident, as I speak to you, **is that the security problems facing our continent will be resolved only through close international cooperation.** Obviously, there is an urgent need to strengthen such cooperation.

For my part, I wish to reaffirm my determination to spare no effort to ensure that Cameroon remains a land of hospitality, tolerance, stability, peace and progress.

2. Speech at the opening session of the 15th Summit of la Francophonie, Dakar 19 November 2014

For instance, I would like to draw your attention to the situation in my country which is currently facing attacks from the Boko Haram sect. I will mention in passing that all of Nigeria's immediate neighbours are OIF members and just like Cameroon, are concerned.

Faced with a common enemy who rebuffs every value we hold dear, solidarity must come fully into play. Recent history teaches us that there can be no compromise with such an opponent.

3. Statement on the theme "Regional Peace and Stability". Washington, 6 August 2014

Today, Cameroon has to grapple with Boko Haram incursions. We have taken self-defence measures. **However, Boko Haram is a transnational phenomenon which also calls for a transnational response.** This is a form of fundamentalism that defies the values of democracy and of our societies. It poses a threat not only to Africa but also to other parts of the world.

We must pool efforts to stem its tide. Terrorism begets

piracy, illegal arms trade, and trafficking of all kinds. There again, we must pool our efforts.

Lastly, the most pernicious threat to peace is poverty.

The global nature of this threat to regional peace and stability equally requires a global response to which all members of the international community must contribute.

Here also, we believe it is worthwhile to establish a true partnership for, as elsewhere, peace and security are prerequisites for the stability and development of African States.

They are the sine qua non for harmony between nations.

4. Message to the Nation at the end of the year 2014 and the beginning of the New Year 2015, 31 December 2014

Initially, the Boko Haram terrorist organization carried out raids to seize isolated hostages or loot public or private property.

Buoyed by their grip on north-eastern Nigeria, the so-called "jihadists" launched major attacks on the Far-North Region of our country, for instance, the attack on the workers' camp of a Chinese company at Waza and the raid on Kolofata, resulting in several deaths and the abduction of many hostages.

This could not be tolerated. We therefore set up a response and prevention mechanism which quickly proved its worth. Since then, Boko Haram has suffered heavy human and material losses in each of its attacks. It is hoped that they would learn their lesson.

At this juncture, I would like to pay glowing tribute to our defence forces whose valour has been demonstrated in recent fighting.

I have had occasion to say that the Nation as a whole ought to mobilize and rally behind its defence forces.

Such seems to be the case by all accounts from our regions. I have most particularly appreciated the stance

of our Muslim compatriots. They, like all the other Cameroonians, have clearly understood that this war is by no means based on religion. They have clearly understood that it is a response to external aggression by a terrorist organization that does not subscribe to the values of a fraternal society.

I would also like to recall here that Cameroon is not the only country facing this threat which knows no boundaries. Some of our neighbouring countries, namely Benin, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, are collaborating with us to form a united front against Boko Haram.

The United Nations Organization and several big powers, particularly the United States of America, Germany, France, Russia and China, also back us. I will be revisiting this issue before long.

5. Speech in response to the Diplomatic Corps, Yaounde, 8 January 2015

In my message to the Nation a few days ago, I mentioned the escalation of attacks by Boko Haram in the northern part of my country and how we have responded.

As you are aware, we have beefed up our defence forces in the region concerned by taking measures to protect our population against repeated terrorist attacks and maintain our territorial integrity. As in many other countries around the world confronted by such threats, we have adopted laws and regulations to prevent and stamp out terrorism. Such is the purport of the law recently passed by Parliament. The law has been welcomed by the large majority of the Cameroonian people who clearly understand its rationale.

Today, I would like to underscore the global nature of the threat we are facing.

Those who tried to subjugate Mali, those who sporadically carry out raids into our country, those who probably influenced some factions in the Central African Republic and those who created chaos in Somalia have the same goals: to establish their authority on the Sahel strip from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean and set up their ruthless obscurantist regime therein.

A global threat calls for a global response. Such should be the response of the international community, including the African Union and our regional organizations. We must not delude ourselves. Although weakened by the losses it has suffered, our foe nonetheless remains capable of bouncing back. Its raids in northern Mali and the repeated attacks launched against our territory

should convince us of this fact. We must bear in mind that the distance separating a country from the combat zones is no sure-fire guarantee of safety.

Personally, I still believe that the threat posed by Jihadists, Boko Haram and Shebabs may be defeated only through global mobilization. Many have understood this, but are yet to draw lessons from it. I would like to commend the multi-faceted support provided by the United Nations organization, but also some big powers, notably the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and Germany. We thank them for their firm determination to stand by us in this struggle.

6. Message to the Youth, 10 February 2015

Take the example of our young soldiers who are ensuring our security along our borders. Their bravery, their sense of duty and sacrifice show us what utmost love for fatherland can be.

The war they are waging on our behalf, at the risk of their lives, involves the entire Nation. There is no doubt that with the support of us all, we will emerge victorious. Friendly countries that cherish peace and freedom, the international community and world opinion are on our side.

❖ ON THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Statement of the President of the Republic at the World Summit on Climate Change, Copenhagen, 17 December 2009.

My country is reeling from the adverse impact of climate change.

The situation is increasingly critical in its Sudano-Sahelian area. While the temperature is constantly rising, rainfall is continuously decreasing, leading to inexorable desert encroachment. In twenty years, the production belt of certain crops such as cotton and maize has shifted by several hundreds of kilometres southwards, and the northern part of the country now faces a chronic shortfall in agricultural production.

Furthermore, Lake Chad is drying up rapidly. This is a cause for grave concern for Cameroon and the other bordering countries as it threatens the survival of the affected populations.

On its Atlantic seaboard, my country faces the

degradation of its coastal ecosystems due to the sedimentary sand silting, floods and salt water level rise.

In the southern part of Cameroon, the conservation and eco-friendly exploitation of the tropical forest poses many challenges on account of the importance of this sector to the national economy.

Faced with this situation, the Government of Cameroon has taken a number of measures, such as the putting in place of a National Environmental Plan and a Forest Development Plan, as well as the launching of the reforestation campaign known as “Operation Green Sahel”, in collaboration with neighbouring Sahelian countries. (...).

Failing an immediate global agreement:

- commitments on the reduction of greenhouse gases by industrialized countries must be clearly defined and articulated;
- technology transfer should be envisaged to help mitigate the effects of climate change in developing countries;
- the proposed control mechanism should take into account the different levels of responsibility concerning atmospheric pollution. Indeed, it is known that though Africa’s contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is negligible, it is hard hit by the effects of pollution.

In general, I believe it would be fair, in future financing and technology transfer arrangements, to give special attention to developing countries, notably those of the Congo Basin. In effect, they make huge sacrifices to preserve and regenerate the world’s second forest reserve after the Amazon, both of which forest blocks constitute the lungs of the planet as carbon sinks and oxygen producers.

Speech by President Paul BIYA at the XVth Summit of the International Organisation of La Francophonie in Dakar (Senegal), 29 November 2014.

The countries of the Central African sub-region feel that by preserving the great Congo basin forest, they contribute significantly towards reducing greenhouse gases. Hence, they are pleased that China and the United States of America seem to have embarked on that. This augurs well for next year’s Paris Conference on Climate. The situation of Lake Chad is another cause for concern to us. We are almost helplessly watching its tragic progressive disappearance. In addition, there are security and socio-political challenges. The Paris Conference should work towards establishing a Lake Chad rescue plan. It is a suggestion.

❖ ON IMMIGRATION

Speech by the head of state in response to New Year

wishes from the diplomatic corps, Yaounde, January 2014.

I also visited the Holy See at the invitation of His Holiness Pope Francis. During our discussions, I noted a broad convergence of views on topical international issues. Similarly, **His Holiness and I share the feeling that in attempting to settle disputes and deal with migration issues, the international community should accord greater importance to human solidarity.**



FRANCE AND CAMEROON IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BOKO HARAM

France has been assisting countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin since they pledged to counter Boko Haram attacks during the May 17, 2014 Paris security summit on Nigeria. Thus Cameroon has benefitted from this benevolence through defence partnerships, humanitarian aid, and development accords.

1/ Defence Partnerships: France has positively responded to the needs of Cameroon, upon request from the latter, specifically via intelligence, training and well-structured teamwork.

a) Intelligence gathering and sharing between France and Cameroon to effectively suppress Boko Haram is essential, especially at a strategic, operational and tactical level. A seminar was organised in Garoua in November 2014 on these aspects. It was followed by the putting in place of a detachment of the French legion in Maroua in March 2015. Military officials of both countries are collaborating and exchanging strategies. This link is effective between the 4th inter-military region (RMIA4) and the coordination and liaison unit in Ndjamen. The sharing of intelligence is equally strong at the central post between the defence unit of the French Embassy and the Intelligence Chief of Cameroon's top military staff.

b) Many training exercises have been organised, free of charge, by experts of the French Forces in Gabon (EFG) to tackle the needs

of Cameroonian troops who are engaged in the war against Boko Haram. The use of improvised explosives by the terrorists, forced France to fully train Cameroonian soldiers of the engineering corps on how to deactivate them. EFG also organised skill-based operations on advanced shots in battle, positioning, parachuting, battles in urban areas, and topography. Adapted courses were equally organised for Cameroon's Police and Gendarmerie forces involved in the war against terrorists.

c) Cameroon is a beneficiary of French support to reputed institutions like the International War College (ESIG) in Simbock (with an annual enrolment of close to 50 high-ranking African military officers); and the International School of Security Forces (EIFORCES) in Awae (with an annual enrolment of about 50 soldiers, gendarmes and police officers of African origin, who are trained on peacekeeping affairs). France also helps Cameroon's School of Top-ranking Military Staff. Over a dozen French experts are working alongside Cameroonian defence and security forces. In 2014, France allocated FCFA 2.5 billion to realise all these activities.

d) France has ratified the arms trade treaty, and the country has one of the strictest control systems against arms trafficking in the world. It has been established that a majority of the weapons used by Boko Haram have come

from the Nigerian Army and the contraband of arms in the region. France, through the Operation Barkhane has been fighting against this phenomenon in the Sahel and Saharan corridor. This is being done with the collaboration of forces from Chad, Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso.

2/ Humanitarian assistance: France supports the government of Cameroon, which is hosting and managing victims; refugees, displaced and injured persons who are fleeing from the Boko Haram violence.

- a) France gave FCFA 262 million to the Red Cross in the first quarter of 2015. This was aimed at improving the health conditions of women and children (refugees, displaced and injured persons) in district hospitals in the Far North region of Cameroon. The French Ambassador to Cameroon, on June 4, 2015, met with mothers and widows of the Gazawa health centres of Achigachia and Amchide, most vulnerable to Boko Haram attacks. Here, children suffering from severe malnutrition are receiving care from the Red Cross in Cameroon, through the support of the Red Cross in France.
- b) 262 FCFA million has been donated to the World Food Programme (WFP) in 2015 to tackle the malnutrition of vulnerable people (refugees, displaced and injured persons) of the North and Far North regions who have been affected by Boko Haram's violence. France equally supports the actions of the WFP to treat children (aged between 6-59 months) suffering from malnutrition in 25 health districts for a six-month period (a request to reset this support is underway).
- c) France equally provided FCFA 293.5 million to the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in the first quarter of 2015 to help refugees and protect those fleeing from the Boko Haram mayhem. The French Ambassador to Cameroon visited on June

5, the Minawao Refugee Camp (Far North), where over 40,000 Nigerian refugees are receiving care from UN agencies, national and international NGOs, with the support of Cameroon that is assuring their security.

- d) The Red Cross' activities in the Lake Chad region have been supported by France. 393 million Euros have been granted to assist displaced persons and refugees who are still outside the camps in northern Cameroon. Humanitarian activities of the Red Cross concentrate on the protection of families that have been separated by the conflict via the distribution of food and basic necessities.

3/ Development aid: France has mobilised with Cameroon, since the May 2014 Paris summit, "in favour of the marginalised and vulnerable population of northern Cameroon, notably women exposed to Boko Haram atrocities." This has been materialised through contributions from the French Development Agency (AFD), the French Research Institute (IRD, CIRAD) and programmes championed by the French Embassy.

- a) France has helped in the construction and rehabilitation of many classrooms in northern Cameroon. Over 40 schools have been targeted in three divisions namely; Mayo Sava, Mayo Tsanaga, Logone and Chari – badly affected by Boko Haram violence. France equally contributes to educate children found in the traditional districts of Demsa-Gaschiga, Dargala and Meiganga, through the Association of Women and Girls of the Adamawa.
- b) Over 20 health centres have been constructed in Mayo Sava, Mayo Tsanaga, and the Logone and Chari divisions of the Far North region by France. In addition, FCFA 23 billion has been allocated to support the "health cheque" programme of the Ministry of Public Health to curb infant and maternal

mortality in northern Cameroon. Moreover, France has financed the construction of healthcare centres worth FCFA 200 million. For example, the 50 bedroom structure of the Private Nursing and Midwifery School in Garoua to improve the accommodation of students from the Far North. Also, France supports health-related actions of the Organisation of Women for Health, Food Security and Development in Garoua.

- c) France finances agricultural activities throughout Cameroon. The northern region counts on the programme to Improve Competitiveness in the Exploitation of Agro-pastoral Products (ACEFA) through the help of farmers' groups, and a training programme of young farmers (AFOP) from 12 centres. A programme to support the Protection and Integral Management of Agro-pastoral Resources (AGSIRAP) has started specifically in the northern region. The French Centre for International Cooperation in Agricultural Development (CIRAD) is a major actor in scientific cooperation in this area especially in the cultivation of cash and

food crops. In partnership with Cameroonian researchers, France helps the Northern League for the Promotion and Defence of Democracy, Human Rights and Freedoms to secure land for rural women, and the Horizon Info NGO for the production of bio carbon for kitchens in Garoua.

- d) France redirected, by the end of 2014, part of the C2D funds (FCFA 3.5 billion) to facilitate job creation for young Cameroonians in the Far North region. This activity shall begin by the end of 2015 and it shall target local infrastructural projects for communal development. It will be retained in the programme to improve the standards of living in this area, while helping to integrate youth activities too. The construction of a Training Centre for Handicrafts (CFM) is also earmarked to begin in Maroua. Support in Urban Development is constituted in rehabilitation projects in Garoua and on the treatment and distribution of pipe-borne water in Ngaoundere.

Source: French Embassy to Yaounde.