



Cameroon NGO's Coalition on
the Rights of Children (COCADE)

United Nations Human Rights Council
24th Session
20th September 2013
Item 6 – Consideration of UPR reports

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF CAMEROON

Thank you Mr. President.

Cameroon NGO's Coalition on the Rights of Children (COCADE) welcomes the report of the Working Group on the UPR of Cameroon, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

We welcome the government's efforts to protect children's rights and the acceptance of many UPR recommendations such as the fight against gender-based and sexual violence; the promotion of access to education for children with disabilities; elimination of child exploitation; and the carrying out of a national study on the identification of indigenous people.

The implementation of these recommendations, including through allocation of sufficient resources for their realization, will have a significant impact on children's lives in Cameroon.

COCADE would like to strongly encourage the acceptance of the following recommendations concerning:

- The ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure, along with the adoption of other related international treaties and to the provision of legal measures to ensure the effective protection and implementation of children's rights¹.
- The implementation by the Government of targeted sustainable and effective measures to reduce the rate of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), sexual violence, corporal punishment, children in conflict with the law, children in street situations, and further measures to promote universal birth registration and education among the indigenous population, especially Mbororos and Bakas².

COCADE would like to call on the Government of Cameroon to take effective measures by adopting a realistic action plan and allocating sufficient resources in order to:

- Ensure that the mandates and responsibilities of Ministries in charge of child rights and child protection, such as the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family; and the Ministry of Social Affairs; are clearly defined by law, so as to render their actions more efficient and foster the establishment of a concrete child protection system;
- Adopt and implement without further delay the national Child Protection Code and the Code of persons and Family, and ensure that it is in line with international human rights standards;

¹ UPR recommendations (131.1, 131.2, 131.3, 131.4, 131.21, 131.22, 131.25, 131.26, 131.27, 131.44, 131.45, 131.46, 131.49, 131.51, 131.52, 131.56, 131.57, 131.58, 131.59, 131.67, 131.117, 131.120, 131.133, 131.134, 131.165)

² UPR recommendations (131.42, 131.43, 131.47, 131.54, 131.55, 131.60, 131.89, 131.90, 131.91, 131.100, 131.101, 131.104, 131.118, 131.119, 131.122, 131.123, 131.124, 131.125, 131.126, 131.127, 131.128, 131.129, 131.130, 131.131, 131.132, 131.135, 131.136, 131.162, 131.163, 131.164, 131.167, 131.168, 131.169)



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- Fight for the effective eradication of FGM, sexual exploitation, corporal punishment; support street children; ensure that the rights of children in conflict with the law – in line with national and international laws and standards - are respected and protected; and assure that all children no matter their social origin, have equal access to education, health services and that they are made aware of their human rights.

COCADE appreciates the Government's willingness to consult with civil society in the UPR process and is looking forward to the Government's continued cooperation with civil society organizations in the follow-up to the UPR.

Thank you Mr. President.