

WORLD HABITAT DAY 2022

BERTOUA DECLARATION

PREAMBLE

Considering Cameroon's adherence to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals based on the five pillars, which are People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership;

Considering the axes of Cameroon's National Development Strategy NDS30 and its essential pillars which are:

- The structural transformation of the national economy;
- The development of Human Capital and Well-being;
- - The promotion of employment and economic inclusion;
- - Governance, decentralisation and strategic management of the State;

Pleased with the achievements of the Head of State in terms of decentralisation;

Considering the persistent deficit in decent housing;

Considering the fact that issues of hygiene and sanitation, and more specifically waste management in our cities, are acute;

We, the participants in the World Habitat Day 2022, meeting in Bertoua from 27 September to 3 October 2022, representatives of central and devolved administrations, UN-Habitat, Regional and Local Authorities, specialized State organizations, the private sector, civil society, the academia, professional associations and development partners,

- **Make the following recommendations to the State of Cameroon:**

- 1- to consolidate decentralization, the key to the sustainable development of territories;
 - to improve the coordination and collaboration of all actors involved in urban land management, by involving mayors more, as city managers;
 - to strengthen the financial resources allocated to the sustainable management of urbanization;
- 2- to promote joint housing improvement programmes based on existing policies and regulations on social housing and self-building, including in rural areas;
- 3- to make the fight against precarious housing a nationwide challenge by devoting human and financial resources to the resorption operations in line with the seriousness of the situation;
- 4- to ensure the participation of beneficiaries in the formulation and implementation of projects, for a better social acceptance in order to improve the quality of projects;
- 5- to design, implement and monitor an integrated national sustainable waste management programme based on international best practices and national initiatives;
- 6- to produce, validate and test an integrated national smart city strategy.

- **To the mayors and RLAs' Officials:**

- 7- to own the texts governing urban planning in Cameroon, as well as the international provisions on the subject, and to share these texts with municipal councillors and the population;
- 8- to strengthen the managerial and technical capacities of local authorities by computerising the management systems of councils in order to optimise their collection capacities;
- 9- to strengthen their interest in the issue of sustainable urbanisation by:
 - developing municipal waste management strategies;
 - adopting a municipal waste management regulation that includes incentives and sanctions;

- positioning the waste processing sector as a lever for job creation and income generation, especially for the youth;
- investing more in pre-collection equipment at household level in order to assist women to better manage waste, and thus reduce the installation of rubbish bins in streets and public squares;
- investing in innovative digital applications to optimise urban services, particularly urban transport and waste management.;
- putting in place geographical information system on urban land subsoil use for a better knowledge and a smoother management of their territories.

10-At a time when the decentralisation process is complete, to commit to a strong political will to change the image of our cities, through a paradigm shift, by:

- raising awareness among the population to encourage them to sign up to a performance contract on hygiene and sanitation;
- involving local media in public hygiene education and awareness programmes;
- instituting payment by the population for waste collection;
- the provision of an allocation of one percent (1%) of the administrative account for hygiene and sanitation actions to be distributed among the actors (administrative, regional and municipal authorities);
- investing more in pre-collection equipment at household level in order to reduce the installation of rubbish bins in streets and public squares;
- anticipating the constitution of land reserves for public facilities, including the development of controlled public dump sites that comply with environmental standards;

11-carrying out operations to eliminate precarious housing in a professional manner, without excess, and with respect for the "right to exist", the "right to dignity", the "right to the city" and the "right to decent housing" of each citizen;

12-drawing up addressing plans for cities in order to offer geotracking services to citizens;

13-providing professional, efficient municipal police forces that are close to the communities in conjunction with the national police force;

- **To enterprises:**

14-to enforce their social responsibility by affirming their contribution to sustainable development;

15-With regard to the specific case of brewery companies, this will involve:

- directing research and development towards innovative and sustainable solutions;
- boosting the circular economy by setting up buy-back points for plastic bottles.

- **To African and international organizations, sustainable development partners:**

16-to strengthen technical and financial assistance to key actors such as the State, local authorities and civil society in programmes to improve decent housing for the well-being of the population.

Finally, **we** pledge to change our mentalities, attitudes and ways of life with regard to the production and management of waste for individual citizen participation in good hygiene and sanitation practices.

Done in Bertoua, on 3 October 2022

M OUMAR SYLLA 
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Mrs Célestine KETCHA COURTÈS,
Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Cameroon


Courtès née Ketcha Célestine