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# A PRESENTATION ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MOST FORUM OF MINISTERS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CENTRAL AFRICA AND NIGERIA THAT TOOK PLACE IN YAOUNDE, CAMEROON FROM THE 24-26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016



THEME:

INSECURITY AND  
MIGRATION : IMPACT ON  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN



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# THE AIM OF THE FORUM



- To bring down the global Agenda to the concrete Regional and National levels, in order to build research-informed knowledge capacities.
- Africa in general and Central Africa in particular has a high level of displaced people and yet there is an inadequate research on this phenomenon and its manifestations and consequences

# BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CAMEROON

Cameroon is a Central African nation on the Gulf of Guinea, bordered by Nigeria, Chad, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon. It is nearly twice the size of Oregon. Mount Cameroon (4,069 m), near the coast, is the highest elevation in the country. The main rivers are the Benue, Nyong, and Sanaga.

- **President:** Paul Biya (Since 1982)
- **Prime Minister:** Philemon Yang (since 2009)
- **Total Surface area:** 475,440 sq km
- **Population (2014 est.):** 23, 130,708
- **Growth rate:** 2.6%; birth rate: 36.58/1000; infant mortality rate: 55.1/1000; life expectancy: 57.35
- **Capital City :** Yaoundé, 2.432 million
- **Largest city:** Douala, 2.449 million
- **Monetary unit:** CFA Franc.
- **Languages:** French, English (both official); 24 major African language groups
- **Ethnicity/race:** Cameroon Highlanders 31%, Equatorial Bantu 19%, Kirdi 11%, Fulani 10%, Northwest Bantu 8%, Eastern Nigritic 7%, other African 13%, non-African less than 1%
- **National Holiday:** Republic Day (National Day), May 20
- **Religions:** indigenous beliefs 40%, Christian 40%, Islam 20%
- **Literacy rate:** 75.9% (2011 est.)



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# PARTICIPANTS

The forum was attended by

- Representatives of UN Agencies such as UNDESA, UNAIDS, UNEP, IOM, UNHCR, UNDP, HCDHD, UNECA, FAO, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, The World BANK, Africa Union Researchers, Senior Officials and Representatives of Civil Society
- Representatives of Member Countries





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# OVERVIEW AND THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE FORUM



## 1. AT GLOBAL LEVEL

The Sustainable Development Goal n°16 calls to “*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*”. Using this as reference in February 2016, the UN Secretary-General called for Member States’ support to resolve these issues. During a visit to a site hosting IDPs in North Kivu, in the DRC, on that occasion, he particularly emphasized the specific vulnerability of women and young people: “*We have to give hope to young people,*” said Mr. Ban Ki MOON on the first stop of his two-day visit.







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# OVERVIEW AND THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE FORUM (continuation)

## AT CONTINENTAL LEVEL

- The issue of migration and refugees is also a major focus area of the *African Social Policy Framework* adopted at the first AU Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development in Namibia 2008, which has particular resonance in the security, social and environmental context of Central Africa.
- The AU African Social Policy *Framework* stressed that «*due to the deteriorating socio-economic and environmental conditions, as well as armed conflicts in many African countries over the last four decades, the pattern of migration in the continent has become dynamic and complex. This is reflected by, among others, increasing feminization of migration streams, diversification of migration destinations, transformation of labour flows into commercial migration, human trafficking, and the increasing role of regional economic organizations in fostering free flows of labour.*»





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# OVERVIEW AND THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE FORUM (continuation)

## THE ISSUE IN THE CENTRAL AFRICA REGION

- Outwardly, it is now established that the insecurity situation in Central Africa severely contributes to migration and internally displaced people. Likewise, environmental conditions encompassing climate change also constitute a major driver for migration, particularly affecting women and youths.
- In order to address the now established complexity of the phenomenon, there is a growing call within both the development community and states for data-based and evidence-guided public policies given the unstrengthened working partnership between research institutions and governments. More than elsewhere, acuity of the problem is verified in central Africa despite twenty-one MOST Regional Forums organized since 2001 among which the Eastern and Western Africa regions.





# RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORUM

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- Ratification of the declaration of the first MOST forum for Ministers of Social Development of Central Africa and Nigeria.
- Use the term” mobility” instead of migration since mobility covers both internal and external movement.
- Governments of the sub region are encouraged to create institutes for Human and Social Science Research.
- Make available research results on the effects of mobility to policy makers for better policy decision.





# RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORUM (continuation)

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Need for the creation of a network of Social Science Researchers in Central African Sub Region.

- need for reliable data base to generate statistical reports that will permit the tracking of changes on mobility for better policy decision and intervention at the national, sub regional and international levels.
- Put in place a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of issues resolved in this forum (MOST as a permanent platform)
- Identify and provide the needs of the host population to avoid tension between the host populations and the migrants.





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# RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MOST FORUM

## (continuation)



- Exploit the socio economic and cultural aspects of mobility as a factor for development in the sub region.
- Subsequent MOST workshops should be organised to facilitate the understanding of causes and impacts of mobility in the Sub Region.
- Consider trans-cultural issues in the elaboration of educational policies in the Sub Region.
- Multiply platforms for dialogue that will facilitate exchanges on themes related to mobility and create in-depth knowledge on the impacts of migration on the country of origin, the transit country and the host country.
- Train many and quality specialists who can intervene in problems faced by refugees.



# FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES OF THE MOST FORUM

- Creation of a MOST National Committee for Cameroon
- Quality statistic productions for a better management of mobility in central Africa. This study is carried out with the collaboration of UNESCO's Regional Multisectorial Office in Yaounde and CODESRIA
- Organisation of the 1st MOST school in Libreville, Gabon on the theme « Training of trainers in the interface of research and Public Politics » in June 2017
- Organisation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> MOST Forum for Ministers in charge of Social Development in Central Africa – Libreville Gabon, December 2017



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# MOST THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

