



CPI's Special Memorandum on The Convened Dialogue

Washington DC, September 23rd2019

The recent convening by the President of the Republic of a national dialogue could be the starting point of the Cameroon rebirthing process. In conformity with our initially proposed road map, the Cameroon Peace Initiative (CPI) is urging each peace-seeking individual from all parties to give peace a chance by participating and implementing the recommendations of the Inclusive National Dialogue.

It is essential that fair rules be in place to guide a healthy and constructive conversation among fellow countrymen, including the consensual designation of a trustworthy mediator - from among members of the AU Expert Panel, for example - to lead the Dialogue.

It is of paramount importance that all stakeholders be physically present and able to express themselves freely, specifically: the protagonist of the Anglophone crisis (The president of the republic and government, the leaders of known separatists' movements, and other country stakeholders such as members of parliament, leaders of the anglophone and francophone diasporas, and leaders of other political parties, major NGOs, Unions, etc.

A Presidential pardon should be granted to all stakeholders currently caught up in the legal system.

A cease-fire should be agreed to during the dialogue process.

Once key players have agreed on the fundamental principles of a genuine and credible exchange, the actual dialogue can start.

FOCUS

CPI recommends that the National Dialogue be focused on an agenda that includes but is not limited to the following:

ON THE ANGLOPHONE CRISIS

- A discussion and recommendations on the form of the State with a timeline for implementation: genuine federalism/decentralization with election of administrative officials; autonomous sources of funding; election cycles to different offices, etc.;
- A discussion on "identity" and the measures to dispel feelings of cultural assimilation;
- Development of a plan for national reconciliation and justice, and the reconstruction of localities destroyed during the crisis;
- Development of a plan for the return of refugees and the resettlement of internally displaced persons;
- Recommendation of a national day of mourning in honor of all who lost their lives during the crisis.

ON THE SOCIO-POLITICAL CRISIS

- Reform of the electoral system, code, etc. with the objective to achieve free and fair elections;
- Reconciliation of the country with its diaspora;
- A discussion on citizenship (rights and responsibilities);
- Discussion on multi-nationality;
- Discussion of the best way to curb corruption and improve governance;
- Discussion on regional equilibrium to make sure that Cameroon has a dedicated, professional and results-oriented administration at central and regional/local levels;
- Discussion on the upholding of human rights;
- Discussion on the clear separation of the state and the ruling party;
- Discussion on the public financing of political parties and major news media;
- Discussion on penalizing hate speech and tribalism in public discussions;
- Discussion on the formation of a national union government which will have as main objective the implementation of the recommendations of the Dialogue.

TIMELINE AND MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS

- On each key question, if/when necessary, task forces should be created with timelines to submit outputs;
- A chronogram should be discussed and adopted;

 A steering committee with clearly defined authority and mandate should be set up to monitor the implementation of the resolutions.

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