



**PROGRAMME TO POSITION CSOs  
TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SDGS IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS**  
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**Perspectives of the Cameroon SDGs Monitoring Review and  
Accountability Framework  
(MRAF)**

**Preliminary Write-up**

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## A- Introduction

A number of outcomes have derived from the implementation the programme “to position CSOs to play an active role in the SDGs implementation process in Cameroon, from March through July 2016. These include: (1) a Database of CSOs, private sector active on SDGs and roles in SDGs progress assessment; (2) a CSOs SDGs Engagement Charter (CSEC); (3) Specific Collaboration Platforms between CSOs and Sectoral Ministry (MINREX, CONSUPE, MINJEC<sup>1</sup>); (4) Simplified SDG information tools and (5) clear perspectives on a Monitoring, Review and Accountability Framework (MRAF).

This brief summarises the concept that is emerging on a Monitoring, Review and Accountability Framework (MRAF) for the SDGs in Cameroon that calls for the commitment of all stakeholders in the SDGs implementation process in Cameroon.. The overall objective is to ensure that the implementation of the SDGs in Cameroon effectively meets the aspirations of the people.

## B- Features of the Cameroon SDGs Monitoring, Review and Accountability Framework

### B.1 Overall objective

In general, the MRAF will be a mechanism to ensure that each stakeholder in the implementation of the SDGs does what it should do, assess the results and impacts, while ensuring the respect of good governance practices.

### B.2 Specific objectives

The MRAF will be structured to ensure that:

- the responsibilities of each actor in the implementation process of the SDGs are clearly defined, shared and communicated ;
- collaboration between the different stakeholders in data collection and analysis on the results achieved is effective;
- reports are produced to share information and analysis, as well as to bring forth qualitative perspectives in "progress reporting" on the implementation of the SDGs.

### B.3 Status

The MRAF for the SDGs in Cameroon shall be based on an independent and inclusive system where, despite the fact that the government fully guarantees the implementation of the SDGs, it does not have a prominent place in the leadership of this system. That would ensure for more efficiency and transparency.

### B.3 Operating mode

- The National Road Map adopted in late 2014 on the implementation of the Post -2015 Agenda at the local level (page 24 of the MINEPAT /UNDP report thereon), will be the reference to ensure that the assessment process is based on commonly accepted official data sources. That national SDGs Roadmap is the official document establishing the main activities and responsibilities of stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs. This roadmap will be the reference guide for the monitoring and accountability framework.
- Sectoral stakeholders shall be identified and grouped by SDGs categories, and in accordance with the national Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP). The government ministries and CSOs will each be intervening in their sectors based on their

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Youth and Civic Education

prerogatives in an interactive and complementary dynamic Presently at governmental level, there already exists a clear clustering of sectoral Ministries by group of SDGs, with respective Leads. Additionally, a circular letter of President of the Republic on the preparation of national budget for year 2017 gives specific instructions on the costing the SDGs implementation.

- The MRAF will function following a collaborative working approach. To this end, a coordinating body for the implementation of the SDGs shall be establishment, to operate with representatives of all stakeholders in a view to ensuring a participatory approach to all segments of the population. This structure shall exist at national level as well as at decentralised levels. To facilitate a participatory and inclusive dynamic, Focal Points shall be designated in each Administration, to be in charge of monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and of the collection and provision of relevant administrative data. With regard to the data collection aspect, the National Statistics Institute (INS) has expressed its readiness to work with the civil society to contribute in the collection of data necessary for the MRAF<sup>2</sup>.
- The MRAF shall include a results communication component. Each stakeholder will be accountable through regular reports of its activities. These reports will serve as sectoral background documents at different levels and inform a national overall Cameroon SDGs implementation dashboard, within the national coordination unit. This will help measure progress, gaps, and challenges. Different parties convening on a regular basis will thus be able to learn and draw lessons from the differences that will probably appear from their reports and adjust. A specific communication plan for monitoring the implementation process of the SDGs in Cameroon will be developed.
- Funding mobilization will have to be ensured for the MRAF. Concrete proposals will have to be made by all stakeholders to the government, on due time, when the national budget is in preparation, with regard to the activities that they plan for monitoring the SDGs implementation. In addition, support will potentially be requested from Technical and Financial Partners (TFP).

### **C- Emerging consensus on a Monitoring, Review and Accountability Framework**

It is clear from the results of the national Civil Society workshop on “an institutionalized dialogue for the SDGs implementation in Cameroon” that some consensus is progressively building around a MRAF. The putting in place of the framework was at the occasion seen as a way to enable every actor take responsibility and be accountable to others and the people. A number of public institutions clearly expressed their interest and readiness. The National Statistics Institute committed to collaborate with CSOs to design simplified indicators for data collection on qualitative people’s perspective. The CONSUPE is willing to work with the Civil Society to extend its Auditing scope, using the SDGs Accountability framework. The Ministry of Small and Medium Size Enterprises willing to work toward more frequent consultation on the SDGs.

The MINREX recommitted to champion the advocacy for CSOs-Government specific collaboration platforms, which that Ministry sees as a crucial tool for the functioning of the MRAF through the work of SDGs Ministerial Focal Points. They also put to the reflexion of all, the issue of leadership and hierarchy in the SDGs reporting system, but acknowledged however that the Common Working and Collaboration Platform for the SDGs is a a good step toward an effective solution, provided that is concept is fine-tuned and its functioning sustained.

MINREX in addition considers that the Civil Society Engagement Charter for SDGs implementation will be in key in ensuring full Office inclusion of the grassroots in the monitoring, review and accountability process. They are looking forward to backing the Civil Society in conveying

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<sup>2</sup> During the 28 July 2016 workshop on an “institutionalized dialogue on the implementation of SDGs in Cameroon”

information on that to the presidency of the Republic and the Prime Minister's Office. A foreword is envisaged to be requested from the Prime Minister when the document is published in its final version.

#### **D- Conclusion**

The current dialogue engaged through the programme “to position CSOs to play an active role in the SDGs implementation process in Cameroon, that culminated with the national Civil Society workshop on “an institutionalized dialogue for SDGs implementation in Cameroon”, has not yet gotten to the validation of the relate Monitoring, Review and Accountability Framework (MRAF), but has permitted advanced in discussions on its features and triggered collective and shared agreement on the necessity to have one. To be effective, the framework must give room for checks and balances that call to order actors that are doing nothing or doing less than expected from them to take their responsibility for better.

#### **Annex**

- Reference Document of the Common Working and Collaboration Platform for the SDGs (CWCP) in Cameroon.