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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
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RADIO-PRESS RELEASE

The Permanent Secretary of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC) wishes to inform the public, including the entire national, African and universal human rights movement, that the Commission was evaluated between 2 October 2023 and 30 April 2024 by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), based in Geneva, Switzerland. Following a lengthy, confidential, holistic, and highly demanding evaluation process, the CHRC has been accredited with 'A Status', for the entirety of its work since it went operational three years ago on 29 April 2021.

The accreditation process of the CHRC dates back to the amendment of the enabling law of the country's National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), subject of Law No. 2019/014 of 19 July 2019 on the establishment, organisation and functioning of the CHRC, which *de jure* (in law) has replaced its predecessor, the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF).

The CHRC's 'A Status' accreditation attests - if there is need - to the compliance of Cameroon's NHRI with the *Paris Principles* on the Status and Functioning of NHRIs, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly as an annex to its resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993 on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. It testifies to the relevance of the work of the CHRC's in implementing the three aspects of its mandate (the promotion and protection of human rights as well as the prevention of torture in all places of detention) at national, African and universal level.

Above all, this accreditation constitutes the highest level of international recognition of the credibility, independence and operational effectiveness of the main human rights mechanism in Cameroon, set up by the President of the Republic, Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA.

I would like to extend the deep gratitude of the CHRC's Chairperson to all the African and international partners who provided invaluable assistance to the CHRC during this evaluation. These include the National Human Rights Institutions of Ivory Coast, France, Kenya, Mali, Morocco and Togo; the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA); the Secretariat of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation; the *Association francophone des Commissions nationales des Droits de l'homme* (AFCNDH), and the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), for which the Chairperson of the CHRC was confirmed as Vice-Chairperson on 6 May 2024, in Geneva.



10 MAI 2024

Jean-Pierre ABOUEM ESSEBA