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COMMUNES ET VILLES UNIES DU CAMEROUN - CVUC -  
UNITED COUNCILS AND CITIES OF CAMEROON-UCCC-

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, municipal councillors, representing the cities and councils of Cameroon;

Mindful of the linguistic and cultural diversity of the people of our country, fruit of our secular traditions and the dual British and French council heritage, and conscious of the urgent need to jointly build the unity of the Cameroon nation from our own originality ;

Considering that according to the Constitution, the councils of Cameroon are regional and local authorities, corporate bodies under public law, that they have administrative and financial autonomy in the management of regional and local interests, that they are freely administrated by elected councillors under conditions laid down by the laws;

Considering that the councils and cities must become areas for social integration and not exclusion, so as to promote sustainable and harmonious human development which guarantees the well-being of all, notably children, and safeguard the full participation of women;

Considering also that the councils and cities cannot effectively fulfil their missions of economic, social, health, educational, cultural and sports development without boosting intercouncil solidarity founded on efficient partnership and bringing together their human, material, financial and intellectual resources;

Conscious that the world has become a global village, which strengthens relations between nations and peoples, leading to more actions to establish the interdependence of all, as well as the management of the environment, development, social or security problems, and the respect of fundamental rights ;

Conscious of the interdependence of the cities and the villages, which means that all efforts be combined, on the one hand, to make the cities invigorate the rural sectors instead of impoverishing them, and on the other hand, to give prominence to the profound values that lie hidden in our soil ;

We, the councillors, representing the councils and cities of Cameroon ;

Noting the final declaration of the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities (WACLA) of 31 May 1996 in Istanbul, during the United Nations Conference on human settlements;

Mindful of the resolutions and recommendations of the first National Seminar on Municipal Administration and Decentralization held in Yaounde from 23 to 25 July 1996 ;

Noting the different experiences of the Association of Councils and Cities of Cameroon and the Union of Councils and Cities of Cameroon;

Affirm our will to work for a better coordination of our activities at the regional, national and international levels;

Decide to organize ourselves on the basis of unity and equality, in a single national decentralized association, in order to enable the said association to better accomplish its missions;

- Of coordination, organization and mutual assistance;

- As a laboratory for research, reflection, training, information and exchange;
- and
- Of special spokesperson for the Councils and Cities of Cameroon within the administration, and the national and international community ;

Agree on the following:

**CHAPTER 1**  
**NAME. DURATION. HEADQUARTERS**  
**AND OBJECTIVES**

**ARTICLE 1**

An association is hereby set up between the councils and cities of Cameroon known as - In French "COMMUNES ET VILLES UNIES DU CAMEROUN" abbreviated as "CVUC" and hereafter called the "Association";

- In English : " UNITED COUNCILS AND CITIES OF CAMEROON", abbreviated as "UCCC".

**ARTICLE 2**

- (1) The Association shall be a political, non profit making and for public interest.
- (2) The Association shall be constituted for an unlimited duration.
- (3) The headquarters of the Association shall be in Yaounde. It may be transferred to any other locality within the Republic.
- (4) The emblem of the Association shall be a circle bearing the map of Cameroon surrounded by a tri-colour sash in national colours, with a star.
- (5) The motto of the Association shall be "SOLIDARITY, DIALOGUE, OPENNESS".

**ARTICLE 3**

(1) Objectives of the UCCC:

- a) To cultivate solidarity between councils and cities of Cameroon and institute continuous concerted action to promote local development and improve the environment and living conditions of the people;
- b) To create an environment for permanent dialogue between the councils and cities on the one hand, and the State on the other;
- c) To establish solid and permanent relation between the councils and cities of Cameroon and traditional institutions, guarantors of our heritage and cultural wealth ;
- d) To promote modern governance based on the participation of all active forces in the promotion of collective wellbeing;
- e) To encourage a mutually beneficial partnership among councils, at the local, regional, national, continental ad world levels;
- f) To exchange information, experiences and models, with a view to contributing to the improvement of the management of local affairs and the working conditions of councillors and council personnel;
- g) To involve the councils and cities of Cameroon in environmental protection and the prevention of natural and human disasters;
- h) To encourage the integration of youths, women and the underprivileged classes in the management of the city; and
- i) To give an opinion on any instrument relating to regional and local authorities, at the request of the competent authorities.

**CHAPTER 2**

## **METHODS AND MEANS OF ACTION**

### **ARTICLE 4**

To achieve its goals, the UCCC shall use the following means:

- a) the setting up of studies, technical and legal assistance, financial support and documentation services;
- b) the organization of colloquiums, seminars and other training and concerted programmes on municipal administration problems
- c) participation in international meetings relating to the problems of managing councils and cities ;
- d) establishment of reports on partnership, contacts and appropriate exchanges with any other national or foreign association or organization pursuing similar goals;
- e) the filing of a civil suit in cases involving affiliated councils and cities or mayors acting in the exercise of their duties, in relation to the interests of the Association and, whenever necessary, any other form of legal assistance ;
- f) the publication of periodicals and documents relating to the objectives of the Association ;
- g) the promotion of media campaigns in favour of decentralized institutions; and
- h) negotiations with the Government or the executives and councils of regional and local authorities.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### **ARTICLE 5**

Membership in UCCC shall be open to any Cameroonian council or city that has duly subscribed to this Constitution and regularly pays its annual dues.

#### **ARTICLE 6**

Associate membership shall be given to the following:

- a) any foreign council or city that shows proof of training or cooperation with a council in Cameroon and
- b) any other corporate body co-opted on account of its powers or special contribution to the realization of the objectives of the Association.

#### **ARTICLE 7**

- (1) Membership in UCCC shall be voluntary.
- (2) Membership status may be suspended or lost when a member no longer fulfils the conditions provided for in this Constitution in accordance with the conditions laid down by this Constitution.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

#### **SECTION I ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### **ARTICLE 8**

The Association shall have the following national, regional and divisional organs:

- at the national level, there shall be a General Assembly and National Executive Bureau ;
- at the regional level, there shall be a Regional Assembly and a Regional Bureau ; and
- at the divisional level, there shall be a Divisional Assembly and a Divisional Bureau.

## **SECTION II THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **ARTICLE 9**

(1) The General Assembly shall comprise the councils and cities of Cameroon that are members of the Association and represented, each, by a municipal authority duly mandated by the decision-making body and enjoying the right of speech and vote.

(2) As the supreme organ of the Association, the General Assembly shall deliberate in all issues on the agenda and, generally, take all decisions in keeping with the aims and interest of the Association.

(3) The General Assembly shall meet, at least, once a year in ordinary session.

It shall hold one or several extraordinary sessions on the invitation of the Chairman of the Association or at the request of a least 2/3 (two thirds) of the councils and cities of Association.

It may also hold joint sessions.

### **ARTICLE 10**

(1) The objectives of the General Assembly shall notably be to:

- a) define and adopt an annual plan of action for the Association ;
- b) study and approve the moral report, the balance sheet and give clearance to the National Executive Bureau;
- c) vote the Association's budget;
- d) adopt or amend the Constitution and the Internal Rules and Regulations of the Association ;
- e) elect the members of the National Executive Bureau ;
- f) ratify the appointment of the Chairmen of technical committees upon the recommendation of the National Executive Bureau ;
- g) pronounce the suspension and dismissal of a member upon the recommendation of the National Executive Bureau;
- h) endorse associate membership upon the recommendation of the National Executive Bureau ; and
- i) delegate to the National Executive Bureau, all the powers necessary for the exercise of its missions.

## **SECTION III THE NATIONAL BUREAU**

### **ARTICLE 11**

(1) The National Executive Bureau shall comprise the following members:

- a) a Chairman ;
- b) a 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman ;
- c) four Vice Chairmen ;
- d) a Secretary-General;
- e) two Assistant Secretaries-General;
- f) a Treasurer General;
- g) two Assistant Treasurers General;

- h) two Advisers;
- i) Chairmen of Regional Bureaux;
- j) Ten Chairmen of the Commissions.

(2) With the exception of the Chairmen of the Regional Bureaux, members of the National Executive Bureau shall be elected for a (5) five-year term using the consensus list system, through direct universal suffrage, with absolute majority, by the General Assembly.

(3) The National, Regional and Divisional Executives Bureau shall, during each election, result from the widest consensus in the Association, taking into consideration the political representation within the region of electoral officials (mayors).

(4) The election of members of the National, Regional and Divisional Executive Bureaux of the UCCC should, as much as possible, take place at the same time as the election of municipal councillors.

## **ARTICLE 12**

The National Executive Bureau shall:

- a) pilot the activities of the Association in accordance with the guidelines, instructions and decisions of the General Assembly;
- b) convene Assembly meetings whose agenda it shall propose ;
- c) draw up and forward, for the approval of the General Assembly, the Association's report and balance sheet;
- d) draw up a plan of action and a draft budget which it shall forward to the General Assembly for approval;
- e) endorse membership and propose sanctions the General Assembly ;
- f) forward proposed amendments of Internal Rules and Regulations to the general Assembly;
- g) manage the Association's property;
- h) receive from the General Assembly, any delegation of powers necessary for the exercise of its missions ; take all the necessary measures in view of the sound management of the Association and, to this end, may seek the services of an administrative secretary; and
- i) generally, implement the decisions and instructions of the General assembly and report to the latter.

## **ARTICLE 13**

At the national level, the organization of the Association shall be supplemented by 9 (nine) technical committees, each comprising a chairman elected along side the National Executive Bureau. These technical committees can meet whenever the need arises to address issues that fall within their competence or when requested by the National President.

The expenses incurred during these committee meetings shall be borne by the budget of the association.

- a) the committee in charge of relations with the councils, the State and traditional institutions ;
- b) the economic and finance committee;
- c) the committee for external relations and decentralized cooperation ;
- d) the social, cultural and sports committee ;
- e) the committee for the integration of youths and women ;
- f) the committee on environment and disaster prevention ;
- g) the legal, political and disputes committee ;
- h) the scientific and technological affairs committee;
- i) the communication and training committee.

**SECTION IV  
REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES**

**ARTICLE 14**

The Regional Assembly shall comprise the councils and cities of the region concerned, represented, each by a municipal authority duly mandated by a decision-making body.

**ARTICLE 15**

The Regional Assembly shall meet, at least, twice a year to acquaint itself with affairs of local and regional interest. To this end, the Assembly shall: elect Regional Bureau members whose Chairman shall be member, as of right, of the National Executive Bureau ; adopt the regional budget; generally, ensure the follow-up and supervision of the activities of the Association's Regional Bureau ; and study any specific issue brought to it by the National Executive Bureau and/or General Assembly and report to the latter on the relevant activities.

**SECTION V  
REGIONAL BUREAU**

**ARTICLE 16**

The Regional Bureau shall comprise 12 (twelve) members elected under the same conditions as the National Executive Bureau by the Regional Assembly for a five year term of office. It shall obligatory comprise:

- a Chairman, duly mandated representative of the Association at the local and regional levels ;
- a Vice Chairman ;
- a Secretary-General;
- an Assistant Secretary-General I;
- a Treasurer;
- an Adviser;
- two Auditors ; and Divisional Bureau Chairmen.

**ARTICLE 17**

Regional Bureau shall:

- a) Ensure the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and the National Executive Bureau of the Regional assembly ;
- b) Coordinate the activities of the Association within its area of jurisdiction;
- c) Draw up and implement the regional action plan of the Association, after approval by the Regional Executive Bureau. In this capacity, it shall prepare the regional budget and forward to the Regional Assembly for approval;
- d) Report on its activities to the Regional Assembly and the National Executive Bureau ; and
- e) Draw yearly moral and financial reports and forward to the Regional Assembly for approval and to the National Executive Bureau for necessary action.

**SECTION VI  
DIVISIONAL ASSEMBLIES AND BUREAUX**

**ARTICLE 18**

- (1) The Divisional Assembly shall comprise councils and cities of a division, each,

represented by a municipal authority duly mandated by the decision-making body of his council.

(2) It shall have the same duties and shall meet, mutatis mutandis, under the same conditions as the Regional Assembly.

#### **ARTICLE 19**

(1) The Divisional Bureau shall comprise a :

- Chairman, duly mandated representative of the Association at the divisional level;
- a Secretary-General; and
- a Treasurer.

(2) However, in divisions with 2 (two) councils, the duties of Chairman and Treasurer shall be performed in the Bureau by municipal authorities; A senior council official shall be jointly appointed Secretary-General by the said municipal authority.

### **CHAPTER 5**

#### **FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

#### **ARTICLE 20**

(1) The resources of the UCCC shall come from:

- a) membership dues ;
- b) special annual contributions from member councils and cities ;
- c) remuneration from the Association's services and proceeds of services provided by the Association ;
- d) interest on funds and fixed assets; and
- e) proceeds of the transfer of movable and immovable property ;

(2) In case of public utility recognition, pursuant to the regulations in force, the resources referred to in Paragraph I may be extended to :subsidies; gifts and legacies; assistance funds from bilateral, multilateral and decentralized cooperation ; and resources put at its disposal.

#### **ARTICLE 21**

(1) The Chairman of the Association shall be authorizing officer and the Treasurer-General the accounting officer. The Regional Bureau Chairman and the Divisional Bureau Chairman, shall be delegated authorizing officers.

(2) Only expenditure charged to the national, regional and divisional budgets may be committed respectively by the Chairman of the National, Regional and Divisional Executive Bureaux.

(3) The financial management audit shall be carried out every year by a professional auditor appointed by the General Assembly. The consolidated accounts audit shall be forwarded to the General Assembly for approval.

(4) The Association shall open an account in a bank approved in accordance with the regulations in force. Any withdrawal of funds from the said account shall require, at the national level, the signatures of the Association's Chairman and National Treasurer, at the regional level, those of the Regional Bureau Chairman and Treasurer, and at the divisional level, those of the Divisional Bureau Chairman and Treasurer.

#### **ARTICLE 22**

The duties of member of Bureau of the Association shall be honorary. However, the Association shall cover expenses incurred during the performance of his duties.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **AMENDEMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION, DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

#### **SECTION 23**

- (1) This Constitution may be amended only by the General Assembly with a quorum of a least 2/3 (two thirds) of the members.
- (2) However, no amendment of the Constitution may be effected without a 2/3 (two thirds) majority of members present.

#### **ARTICLE 24**

The provisions of this Constitution shall, as the need arises, be specified by Internal Rules and Regulations adopted by the General Assembly.

#### **ARTICLE 25**

Dissolution of the Association shall be declared by an extraordinary General Assembly convened for this purpose by the National Executive Bureau, at the request of at least 2/3 (two thirds) of the members present.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **MISCELLANEOUS. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### **ARTICLE 26**

The Association of Councils and Cities of Cameroon, abbreviated "ACCC", and the Union of Councils and Cities of Cameroon, abbreviated "UCCC" both recognized by the law in force shall cease to exist as from the date of the holding of the General Assembly organized pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph I stipulated in Section 11.

#### **ARTICLE 27**

- (1) The Bureaux of the UCCC and the UCCC in office on the date of adoption of this Constitution shall as and where necessary carry out the declaration formalities of the UCCC.
- (2) The Bureaux referred to in Paragraph 1 above shall take all necessary measures to regularize the financial situation of both Associations.

#### **ARTICLE 28**

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 11, the UCCC Bureau elected at the date of adoption of this adoption of the Constitution shall remain in office for a period of one year.
- (2) After the period provided for in Paragraph 1 above, the General Assembly of the UCCC shall be convened to elect a Bureau for the remaining fraction of the term of office of the municipal councillors elected on 30 June 2002.

#### **ARTICLE 29**

The Bureaux referred to in Article 25 shall set up an equally represented committee to assess the assets and clear the debts of the UCCC and UCCCC.

#### **ARTICLE 30**



The election of members of the National, Regional and Divisional Executive Bureaux of the UCCC should, as much as possible, take place at the same time as the election of municipal councillors.

**ARTICLE 31**

The provisions of this Constitution shall, as the need arises, be specified by Internal Rules and Regulations adopted by the General Assembly.

**ARTICLE 32**

This Constitution shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the UCCC General Assembly.

Done in Yaounde, 14 May 2005 The Constituent General Assembly