

High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

New York, 15 July 2022

Statement by Civil Society Organizations of Cameroon

The Chairperson,

1. I am pleased to inform you that some civil society organizations with the leadership of the Women's Major Group of Cameroon, the Civil Society Forum on the SDGs, the United Municipalities and Cities of Cameroon and others, have prepared an alternative report on the voluntary national review of the SDGs;
2. It is regrettable that the VNR 2022 process has not been very inclusive in Cameroon and has left behind many others such as the Women's Major Group; yet we believe that the widest possible participation of women is an essential element in the implementation of SDG 5;
3. At its first VNR in 2019, the Government of Cameroon committed to ***'set up the platform for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs in the very short term, including the use of disaggregated inclusive data'***, but this is still not done;
4. There is limited awareness of SDGs by local communities, including rural and indigenous women, youth and people with disabilities;
5. There is a rise in violence in schools, aggravated by the use of drugs; in addition, the Covid-19 pandemic, the teachers' strike and the insecurity in the North West, South West and northern regions are scourges that hinder the effective implementation of the SDG4;
6. Similarly, the rise of domestic violence against women, aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic, early and forced marriages and the under-representation of women in elected positions and decision-making bodies, are scourges that hinder the effective implementation of the SDG5;

Two questions:

- 1) How does the Government intend to address the problems raised in the education system and reduce violence against women?
- 2) How does the government intend to improve the effective and inclusive participation of civil society; including the participation of women, youth and other marginalized groups?

Thank you.