WOMEN’S EARLY WARNING INITIATIVE

REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF CONFLICT DRIVEN FACTORS, ELECTORAL VIOLENCE AND ELECTORAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DURING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

OCTOBER 07, 2018 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN CAMEROON

By
The «Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections» Platform
Coordinated by WILPF Cameroon

With the support of Postkodstiftelsen and WILPF Sweden

December 2018
WOMEN’S EARLY WARNING INITIATIVE

07th OCTOBER 2018 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN CAMEROON

REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF CONFLICT DRIVEN FACTORS, ELECTORAL VIOLENCE AND ELECTORAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DURING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

PRESENTED BY

THE "CAMEROON WOMEN FOR PEACEFUL ELECTIONS" PLATFORM

COORDINATED BY

WILPF CAMEROON

(THE WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM- CAMEROON SECTION)

General Supervision
Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo, National Coordinator of the Platform
Guy Blaise Feugap, Communication Officer

Reporters and analysts
Charles Linjap and Louisette Makamthe

December 2018
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES ........................................................................................................3
ABBREVIATIONS ............................................................................................................................4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ....................................................................................................................5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..................................................................................................................6
INTRODUCTION ....................................................................................................................................7
I- POLITICAL BACKGROUND ........................................................................................................9
II- THE "WOMEN'S EARLY WARNING INITIATIVE " ....................................................................9
III- METHODOLOGY ......................................................................................................................12
1.Establishment of the monitoring system to prevent electoral violence .......................................12
2- Data collection, verification and analysis ...................................................................................13
IV- PRE-ELECTION FINDINGS ......................................................................................................14
1-National and international legal and judicial framework governing the elections in Cameroon and the participation of women in peace processes ..............................................................................14
2 - Registered electorate, demography of Cameroon and participation of women and youths ..........19
3 - A non-conducive environment for women’s participation ........................................................19
V- BREAKTHROUGH OF THE PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD .................................................20
1-The pre-campaign .......................................................................................................................20
2-The electoral campaign ..............................................................................................................21
VI- MONITORING OF CONFLICT DRIVEN FACTORS AND ELECTORAL VIOLENCE ON THE VOTING DAY ................................................................................................................23
1-Deployment of observers ...........................................................................................................23
2- Main results of the monitoring ................................................................................................24
VII- EVOLUTION OF THE POST-ELECTORAL PERIOD ....................................................31
VIII- VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DURING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS .......................33
1-Pre-election phase .....................................................................................................................33
2-Election day ................................................................................................................................34
3- Post-election phase ..................................................................................................................35
IX- SOME RESPONSES FROM THE WOMEN'S EARLY WARNING CENTER ..........................36
X- WAY FORWARD .......................................................................................................................39
XI- RECOMMENDATIONS ............................................................................................................38
1-To the government of Cameroon ................................................................................................39
2-To ELECAM ..................................................................................................................................39
3-To political parties .....................................................................................................................40
4-To civil society actors ................................................................................................................40
5-To the media .............................................................................................................................40
6-To all actors of the electoral process ........................................................................................40
CONCLUSION .....................................................................................................................................41
Reactions of some actors, Stakeholders ........................................................................................42
APPENDICE .......................................................................................................................................43
LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

TABLES

Table 1: Deployment of observers throughout the territory .......................................................... 24
Table 2: Classification by sex of persons who interacted with the Women’s Early Warning Centre on the polling day .................................................................................................................... 25
Table 3: Main reasons for calling the Women’s Early Warning Centre ........................................... 25
Table 4: Main concern in messages received by the Call center ......................................................... 25
Table 5: Types of violence observed .................................................................................................. 27
Table 6: Electoral Violence and Electoral Violence Against Women ................................................. 34

FIGURES

Figure 1: Deployment of observers in the country ............................................................................. 24
Figure 2: Rate of irregularities and violence reported through calls ............................................... 26
Figure 3: Rate of irregularities and violence reported through messages ........................................ 26
Figure 4: Types of violence observed .................................................................................................. 27
Figure 5: Violence against women on polling day ........................................................................... 35
ABBREVIATIONS

ADD : Alliance for Democracy and Development
ADISI : Association pour le Développement Intégré et la Solidarité Internationale
CADEG : African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
CAMYOSFOP : Cameroon Youth and Student’s Forum for Peace
CARDÉD : Centre d’Animation Rurale et de Développement Durable
CPP : Cameroon’s People Party
CPDM : Cameroon’s People Democratic Movement
CDU : Cameroon’s Democratic Union
CSO : Civil Society Organization
CNCM : Cameroon National Citizen Movement
CRM : Cameroon’s Renaissance Movement
CRTV : Cameroon Radio and Television
ELECAM : Elections Cameroon
FEPLEM : Femmes pour la Promotion du Leadership Moral
ICAN : International Campaign to Abolishtion Nuclear Weapons
LNDH : Ligue du Nord pour la Promotion et la Défense de la Démocratie, des Droits de l’Homme et des Libertés
LDL : Ligue des Droits et Libertés
MANIDEM : Mouvement Africain pour la Nouvelle Indépendance et la Démocratie
MINAT : Ministry of Territorial Administration
MINJUSTICE : Ministry of Justice
MINPROFF : Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family
MINREX : Ministry of External Relations
MOHCAM : Mother of Hope Cameroon
NGO : Non Governmental Organization
NAP : National Action Plan
SDF : Social Democratic Front.
UN : United Nations.
UNDP : United Nations Development Program.
UNIVERS : Union Nationale pour l’Intégration vers la Solidarité
UNSC : United Nations Security Council
UN WOMEN : United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.
WAA : Women in Alternative Action
WANET : Women Advocacy and Communication Network
WILPF : Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
WILPF Cameroon : Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Cameroon Section
WPI : Women’s Peace Initiatives
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report was produced with the support and collaboration of various stakeholders, including experts on electoral issues and electoral violence, the Government, ELECAM, UN Agencies in Cameroon, CSOs, political leaders, opinion leaders, women and youth. To all, we express our gratitude for their availability and invaluable contribution.

WILPF Cameroon and the «Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections» platform express special thanks to WILPF International Office, the Peace Women Peace Programme and WILPF Sweden for their extensive support and constant assistance.

Our sincere thanks to the Swedish foundation Postkodstiftelsen for funding the implementation of this project and her continuous support for the building of a women’s peace movement.

We express our deepest gratitude to MINPROFF, MINJUSTICE, MINREX, UNDP, UN Women, ELECAM, the Cameroon Bar Association, academics especially Prof. Charly Gabriel Mbock and Dr. Hilaire Kamga, who provided us with the necessary support for the completion of this project.

We have not forgotten the organizations members of the Steering Committee of the platform, the consultants, the observers, the population who contacted to the Women’s Early Warning Centre to help prevent and reduce violence during the electoral process, and the regional focal points as well as the members of WILPF Cameroon.

To all those who collaborated in any way whatsoever in the accomplishment of this report, may they find here the expression of our sincere gratitude.

1. The platform was created in Douala on July 16, 2016 and is coordinated by WILPF Cameroon. It has a Steering Committee consisting of: Un Monde Avenir, WPI, WAA Cameroon, CAMYOSFDP, Article 55; Reach out Cameroon, LNDH, LDL, MOHCAM, CARDDED, ADISI Cameroon, FEPELM.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report on the monitoring of conflict driven factors, electoral violence and electoral violence against women during the October 07, 2018 presidential election in Cameroon through the Women's Early Warning Center, was prepared by WILPF Cameroon and the "Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections" platform.

It focuses on all phases and stages of the electoral cycle. In this regard, it includes information on the pre-election phase with particular attention paid to the legal framework governing elections, the participation of women and youths, the results of the observation of conflict driven factors and electoral violence and the happenings of the post-election period.

It takes us back to the genesis and the motivations of the "Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections" platform, then the Women's Early Warning Initiative in Cameroon; followed by a short presentation of the political, security and social background, main purpose of the platform, its strategic objectives and activities carried out so far as well as its method of action, the national and international legal framework governing elections in Cameroon, the pre-election period, observation of the polls, the post-election period, some responses by the Women's Early warning Centre, recommendations made at the end of the electoral process and perspectives.

It is both a tool for building on the experience of this electoral process, experience sharing and strengthening accountability to the populations, to civil society actors, administration, ELECAM and political parties that have been touched by the Women's Early Warning initiative.
INTRODUCTION

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is a women’s organization that has been working for peace, social justice and non-violence around the world for exactly 103 years. It is the oldest women’s peace organisation in the world, created in April 1915 at The Hague in the Netherlands by 1136 women of different cultures and languages, gathered to say NO to war and all its consequences by setting a movement of women peacemakers. This movement wears the crown as one of those who contributed in ending the First World War. WILPF has national sections in every continent, an international secretariat based in Geneva and a New York office focused on the work of the United Nations. To achieve its objectives, WILPF has four key programs: Human Rights, Disarmament, Women, Peace and Security; and crisis response. WILPF has been awarded 03 Nobel Peace Prizes in her history; also as a member of the ICAN campaign in 2017.

Since its inception in January 2014, the Cameroon Section (WILPF Cameroon) has adopted a roadmap to promote the participation of women in conflict prevention, promotion and peacebuilding processes through peace education, lobbying and advocacy for the drafting and implementation of the National Action Plan2 for Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions.

Our motivation to set up and make operational an early warning mechanism with women in Cameroon was inspired by the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 (UNSC), the African Union Campaign « Gender is my Agenda », the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance ratified by Cameroon, the recommendations of WILPF Africa Regional Conference of November 2015 in Yaoundé, the National Action Plan for the implementation of the SC Resolution 1325 in Cameroon and the peace building initiative in Cameroon as part of “Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections” platform.

2. www.wilpf-cameroon.org
I- POLITICAL BACKGROUND


In accordance with UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820 and the African Union’s «Gender is my Agenda» campaign, the «Women’s Early Warning Initiative» in Cameroon aims to ensure that women, in collaboration with youths, play a decisive role in the conduct of peaceful elections in the country. It involves all electoral actors in actions to prevent violence and conflict, before, during and after the elections. It is underpinned by a strong mobilization of actors of the electoral process who work in real time with the local communities by activating, arbitrating and intervening in case of violent or tense electoral situation. Concretely, it is a progressive process that ultimately aims to set up a Call Centre through which women and youths ensure the conduct of elections in a peaceful climate and furthermore, to establish a permanent peace education program.

At the time when Cameroon embarked on a long series of elections, including the presidential held on October 7, 2018, the country’s security situation remains extremely worrying for many reasons. On the one hand, the Boko Haram incursions in the Far North region, and on the other hand the armed separatist groups fighting against regular government forces in the North West South West regions and the huge influx of refugees from the Central African Republic into the Eastern region. This climate of insecurity is at the root of many restrictions on political and civil liberties that have unfortunately affected the deployment of Elections Cameroon’s (ELECAM) staff in conflict zones and the effective participation of all citizens in the electoral process.

It should be noted that the greatest challenge in organizing free, inclusive, fair and peaceful elections in Cameroon is related to the limitations of the electoral code that most opposition parties, opinion leaders and CSOs consider as less consensual and only favorable to the ruling party.

For the 2018 presidential election, of the 9 candidates selected, WILPF noted with sadness that no female candidate filed for the position.
II- THE «WOMEN’S EARLY WARNING INITIATIVE»

The initiative came to life in Cameroon following WILPF Africa regional workshop on the participation of women in conflict prevention and management, organized in Yaoundé from 27th to 28th November 2015 by WILPF Cameroon with the support of Folke Bernadotte Academy of Sweden. The workshop aimed at promoting the participation of African women in decision-making on peace and security processes and increasing their understanding and influence in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the Women Peace and Security Agenda at large. Participants from several countries gained knowledge on how to promote and strengthen the role of women’s organizations as agents of change and key actors in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 through the sharing of experiences, challenges and good practices. One of the strong recommendations of the conference was the setting up of the «Women’s Early Warning Initiative» by WILPF groups and sections in countries having elections.

With the holding of presidential, regional, legislative and municipal elections, the creation of the «Women’s Early Warning Initiative» in Cameroon was really imperative. The security situation prompted WILPF Cameroon to take steps to reduce the occurrence of election-related conflicts and minimize their effects through peace education, awareness raising, and early warning mechanism before, during and after the elections. WILPF Cameroon who coordinates the national secretariat has been supported, by both national and international partners.

3. www.fba.se
4. At the national level: UN Women, MINPROFF (who by correspondence No. 17/0001254 / L / MINPROFF / SG / DPSF / SPDFF / SPDFF of 7 August 20 welcomed the strength of the initiative for peace and asked us to get closer to the MINPROFF’s Directorate for the Social Promotion of Women for the technical support of the Ministry), the “Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections” Platform.
5. At the international level, the initiative was supported by WILPF Sweden with funding from the foundations Folke Bernadotte Academy and Postkod), WILPF International, WILPF Peace Women.
Recognizing the fact that the vast majority of those who suffer the adverse effects of armed conflict are women and children (refugees and internally displaced persons), WILPF Cameroon reaffirms the important role women can play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It is a progressive process that involves working in real time with the communities, activating, intervening in a violent or tense election situations. Beyond the elections, it is a permanent peace education tool.

- The overall objective of the platform is preventing electoral violence and building a culture of peace in Cameroon. On the occasion of October 7, 2018, presidential election the platform "Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections" set up a Physical Early Warning Center to listen, guide and collect information on conflict driven factors and electoral violence from witnesses and victims. It is an early warning and peacebuilding mechanism that gives women and youths the opportunity to play a leading role in the conduct of peaceful elections through actions aiming at preventing electoral violence and through peace building initiatives. Thus, many activities have progressively built the Women’s Early Warning Initiative in Cameroon, including:

- Five community consultation meetings in 5 regions: West (19th May 2016), East (7th June 2016), Littoral (10th July 2016), Center (21th September 2016), North (3rd August 2018) of which the objective was to inform and rally civil society actors, state actors and others to this initiative.

- The meeting in Douala ended with the creation of, the platform "Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections", with 32 CSOs at the start, and now more than 40. A Coordinating Committee made of 15 organizations has been set up and immediately organized, a national information workshop on the "Women’s Early Warning Initiative" on September 21st, 2016 in Yaoundé. It aimed at rallying a large number of national and international actors around this initiative. Regional and local focal points of the Women’s Early Warning Initiative were identified and established in the ten regions of the country.

- Prior to the October 7, 2018 election of October 7, 2018, the Steering Committee met 6 (six) times and also held strategic meetings with MINPROFF (3 meetings), UN Women (4 meetings), DGSN (1 meeting), MTN (1 meeting), Orange Cameroon (1 meeting), CAMTEL (1 meeting). Other meetings were organized with civil society organizations and the media. The Cameroon Bar Association has made available to the Women’s Early Warning Initiative a lawyer to provide the necessary expertise on legal issues.

- On 21st February 2017 in Douala, the first capacity-building workshop on the electoral process in Cameroon was organized for women and young peacebuilders.

- On 7th June 2017 in Yaoundé, WILPF Cameroon, in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Center for Peace and Development (CIPAD) organized a round table conference on the role of women in mediation as an early warning and non-violent conflicts resolution mechanism (RNVC). Another training on mediation for members of WILPF Cameroon was organized on 27th January 2018;
• On 28th and 29th June 2017 in Douala, and on 16th and 17th August in Bertoua, the multi-regional training workshops for journalists was organized on the theme "Women, Elections and Peace in Cameroon" and educative talks on the same theme. These educative talks, like the one in Yaoundé (August 24, 2017) were followed by a campaign for women and youths registration on the electoral lists;

• On February 20th, 2018 in Douala, an awareness raising workshop to mobilize political actors around the early warning initiative was organized. Several political parties turned out: they were the SDF, UDC, CRM, CPP and MANIDEM;

• June 27th, 2018 in Douala: organization of a training workshop of the members of the Steering Committee of the platform «Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections» and regional coordinators of the «Early Warning Initiative» in Cameroon on the theme: «Electoral Violence, Conflict and attitudes driven Factors: importance of Risk Prevention»;

• July 26th in Bafou (Menoua Division) and 3rd August in Garoua, organization of two (2) Community Awareness Campaigns on the importance of women’s participation in electoral and peace processes, during which women and youths were encouraged to withdraw their voter’s cards and take peace initiatives;

• Four workshops were also organized in Garoua, 1st and 2nd August 2018, Yaoundé, 7th and 8th August and 7th September, Douala, 10th and 11th September 2018) to train observers on conflict driven factors, electoral violence and youths in the electoral process. A total of 171 observers took this course;

• From 08th to 09th September 2018 in Yaoundé, two (2) workshops were organized to train youths and women on non-violent communication and the use of social networks to promote peace;

• On 21st September 2018, a multi-stakeholder meeting took place in Douala with the representatives of the candidates at the presidential election of 07 October 2018, to discuss and take into account the peace and security agenda in their program; the following political parties turned out: UDC, MCNC and UNIVERS;

• Several awareness campaigns to encourage the withdrawal of voter’s cards were conducted;

• Press releases and press briefings were regularly issued to communicate and raise awareness on conflict driven elements already noted and related to the presidential election of 07 October 2018; the press releases called for restraint and raised awareness on the necessity to promote peace during the electoral period.

• Eminent women and other personalities at national, continental and global levels were identified and contacted, and their views and guidance were of paramount importance for the operationalization of the Women’s Early Warning Mechanism.
III- METHODOLOGY

The observation of conflict driven factors, electoral violence and electoral violence against women during the presidential election of October 7, 2018 is the culmination of a method gradually built around a certain number of activities, the implementation of a Call Center, deployment of observers, data collection, verification and analysis.

1. Setting up the monitoring system to prevent electoral violence

At first, the Centre was virtual. It became physical on October 4, 2018 and is operational to date. It deployed observers whose mission was to educate and sensitize on peace, to observe, document and transmit all the conflict driven factors and incidents identified, which could likely create a climate of insecurity and hinder the smooth running of the election.

Following the various meetings with the telephone operators to obtain a hotline, an agreement was signed with the national operator, CAMTEL, who granted the hot number 8243 to the Call Center. Before that, telephones had been acquired to allow regional coordinators to communicate with populations and report to the Early Warning Initiative Secretariat.

The Call Center staff received a two-days télé operator training on October 1 and 2, 2018, to acquire skills to receive calls, collect data, report and manage the Centre. The equipment was installed for the inauguration of the Call Center on
October 4, 2018. To reach the public, video and audio spots were broadcasted through the media and social networks.

The Women’s Early warning Centre, with the introduction of a toll-free number, made it possible to report acts likely to provoke electoral violence in Cameroon, to collect information on disturbances and incidents from witnesses and victims of electoral violence during the process.

2. Data collection, verification and analysis

The information was collected via the Call Center at 8243, a toll-free number accessible to MTN and CAMTEL subscribers. For Orange and Nexttel subscribers, we distributed numbers to contact the Center, including SMS, so that they could be called back. To support the flow of information, 2 WhatsApp groups were created, which included the observers trained by WILPF Cameroon, members of organizations members of the platform, youths trained to use social networks to promote peace, as well as journalists and civil society actors.

Two data collection sheets were drafted, one on conflict driven factors and electoral violence prior to the poll, the other on data collection on polling day. Information was obtained through accounts of witnesses and victims of violence.

The data and information received were double checked (either with the help of our observers and partner organizations, political party leaders, journalists, or by comparison with other sources after research). Information that could not be verified was not published. The analysis was done by two consultants, based on the legal and judicial framework regulating elections and women’s participation in peace processes, and on the basis of the tools for studying electoral violence and gender-based violence during the election period.

To achieve our goal, we deployed a monitoring mission from the pre-election phase from July 2018 to election eve, with 2 election analysts and 4 members of the Secretariat of the Early Warning Center from 21 September to 10 October to monitor the pre-election and post-election phases in four geopolitical zones; we trained and deployed observers (without official MINAT accreditation). Observers monitored the election environment and polling station operations from 6 to 8 October 2018, with a target sample of 500 polling stations spread across the country.

On the polling day, we used the innovative Early Warning Call Center, composed of trained observers, to collect data from citizen witnesses or victims of electoral violence, to enrich the final report with important violence related elements and other conflict driven factors on and after the voting day. We observed the election using two data collection sheets.

After the voting, we monitored incidents and conflict driven factors related to the entire electoral process and published preliminary findings of the observation at a press conference on October 14, 2018.
IV- PRE-ELECTION FINDINGS

This section focuses on the national and international legal and judicial framework governing elections in Cameroon, the determination of the registered electorate, the demography of Cameroon and the women and youths participation, before drawing up a rapid analysis of the context related to women's participation.

1. National and International legal and judicial framework governing the elections in Cameroon and the participation of women in peace processes

The legal framework of elections is governed by national and international legal instruments ratified by Cameroon. The relevant national legal instruments governing the elections in Cameroon are:

- Decree No. 2018/391 of 09 July 2018 convening the electoral body by the President of the Republic.

It is necessary to assess the essential aspects of the violated national instruments throughout the electoral cycle, since the irregularities found are potential conflict driven factors.

The first vital domestic legal instrument that regulates elections in Cameroon is Law No. 2012/001 of 19 April 2012 regarding the Electoral Code of Cameroon, Revised and Completed by Law No. 2012/017 of 21st December 2012. As per the requirements of this law, we identified the following electoral irregularities.

Across the country, with the exception of war-torn regions North-West and South-West, lists of polling stations and voters were not published in accordance with the electoral code.
(article 97). 53 (3) and 54 (2), unlike the 8 days before Election Day, to give registered voters the right to appeal in the event of problems. This is a violation of the voting rights of Cameroonian citizens that gave a legal appearance, but less legitimate for the vast majority of registered voters.

The funds to political parties were not disbursed on time, contrary to Article 280 and Article 281 paragraph 1 of the Electoral Code, and the resources allocated were meager (US $ 30,000 each) and were not enough to train and deploy political party representatives in remote communities to effectively monitor elections in all polling stations in rural areas on polling day. On the contrary, the Cameroonian government allocated substantial financial resources to civil administrators to represent the state in polling stations and to coordinate security issues throughout the electoral cycle, which is paradoxical in a democracy.

In addition, with the advent of digital technologies, Cameroon has also promulgated a number of laws governing electoral communication: Law No. 2010/013 of 21 December 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon. This law aims to protect the right of access of all citizens to electronic information during elections, as evidenced by Article 4.

- **Everyone has the right to benefit from electronic communications services, irrespective of their geographical location on the national territory.**

Despite the above-mentioned protection clause on electronic communications, the government and Internet service providers, including mobile operators, regularly violated Cameroonian citizens’ digital rights two weeks before the actual voting by making the bandwidth Internet extremely slow, thus creating negative consequences for the electoral process. For example, the Internet was quite slow as of October 1, 2018, and after the actual election7, which greatly impeded communication between citizens and political actors across the country. The restriction of the digital right to communicate freely is a direct violation of the civil and political rights of citizens, in accordance with article 25 of the Convention on Civil and Political Rights. Mobile operators such as MTN apologized to their customers, accusing the poor Internet network due to repair work on fiber optics. The crucial question is: why was the Internet network breakdown so recurrent three weeks before the election?

The second digital problem observed was the ban by ELECAM on the use of mobile phone in polling stations, saying that this could affect the security of the vote8. It has been shown that voting control with the Smartphone is a basic civil and political right as provided for in article 25 of the Pact on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Cameroon.

Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on Cyber Security and Cyber criminality in Cameroon is another key legal instrument regulating elections. The basic article of this law reads as follows:

**Article 25.-** (1) Network operators and electronic communications service providers shall be required to maintain connection and traffic data for a period of ten (10) years. (2) Network operators and electronic communications service providers install data traffic monitoring mechanisms for their networks. These data may be accessible during judicial investigations. (3) The liability of the network operators and the providers of electronic communications services is engaged if the use of the data provided for in paragraph 2 above affects the individual freedom of the users.

In accordance with the provisions of this law, mobile operators are required to install data traffic monitoring mechanisms for their networks. Therefore, the regulatory agency must be able to justify the slowness of the bandwidth, if not citizens can suit for the damage to their fundamental rights during the election cycle.

**Article 28.-** (1) Information system operators shall inform users of the prohibition on the use of the electronic communications network for the dissemination of illegal content or any other act which

---


may undermine the security of the networks or electronic communication systems information. (2) The prohibition shall also include the design of misleading software, spyware, potentially unwanted software or any other tool that leads to fraudulent conduct.

In summary, the judicial authorities can investigate false online news during the elections, in accordance with Article 29 of this law.

With regard to the post-electoral legal framework, it is governed by the following provisions of the electoral code:

According to Article 113 of the Electoral Code, "Immediately after the vote counting of the results acquired in each polling station, it can be made public by the candidate". Article 115 also states that: (1) "The results of the ballot shall be immediately recorded in the minutes after closing of voting proper. The final polling result report sheet is written in many copies as per the members of the polling stations duly signed by all polling station members. (2) A copy of the polling minutes report is given to each member present at the local voting commission with their signatures affixed to it".

Pending the final proclamation of the results by the Constitutional Council, the candidates have the right to count their results obtained in the polling stations.

In addition, Cameroon has ratified several relevant continental and international legal instruments to judge the fairness and freedom surrounding electoral operations, including:


On 22th October 1986, Cameroon ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (adopted on 27 June 1981 in Nairobi (Kenya) at the 18th AU Conference) and entered into force on 21th October 1986;

In July 2011, Cameroon ratified the CADEG (adopted by the eighth ordinary session of the AU Conference held on 30 January 2007 in Addis Ababa), which entered into force on 15 February 2012.

Cameroon is a State Party to many international legal instruments governing democracy, elections and good governance, which have legal priority and primacy over national laws, as provided for in Article 45 of the 1996 Cameroon Constitution. To ensure peace and stability during the elections, we must monitor the prevalence of conflict driven factors during the different phases of the electoral process using these continental and international legal instruments.

Cameroon is a State Party to the main Charters of the African Union promoting democratic elections and good governance since the transition from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union in the early 2000s. Cameroon is a State Party to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, Article 3 of which clearly states the following: (g) promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance; and (h) promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments.

In this regard, Cameroon is required to respect the following provisions throughout the electoral cycle with regard to the essential provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (Nairobi, Kenya) (adopted on 27 June 1981, entered into force on 21 October 1986):

Article 9: (1) Everyone has the right to information. By inference, the right of access to information during elections is sacred. (2) Everyone has the right to express and disseminate his or her views in accordance with the laws and regulations

Article 10: (1) Everyone has the right to
freely form associations with others, subject to compliance with the rules enacted by law. (2). No one may be compelled to belong to an association subject to the obligation of solidarity provided for in Article 29.

Article 11: Everyone has the right to assemble freely with others. This right is exercised subject only to the necessary restrictions enacted by laws and regulations, particularly in the interests of national security, the safety of others, health, morals or the rights and freedom of individuals. In conclusion, the freedom of public assembly can only be restricted if it threatens to endanger the public safety, health, ethics and freedom of others during elections. For example, political parties are free to hold meetings and public events during the election campaign without harming the public safety, health, ethics and freedom of others.

Article 12: (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and to choose his residence within a State, subject to compliance with the rules laid down by law.

Prohibiting citizens of the North West and South-West regions from traveling during the pre-election period was contrary to this article even though this travel ban was subsequently lifted.

Article 13: (1) All citizens have the right to participate freely in the conduct of public affairs of their country, either directly or through freely chosen representatives, in accordance with the rules enacted by law.

The voting rights of all African citizens of voting age must be protected by African Union member states by ensuring that all potential voters are equitably included in the lists so that the overall electoral process is fair and equitable, inclusive, in accordance with the legislation in force. In Cameroon today, the number of registered voters before the poll itself is just over 6 million for a country of about 26 million. Cameroon has a potential electorate of more than 12 million voters. As a result, a large part of the electorate did not participate in the vote.

Article 13: (2) All citizens also have the right to access the public functions of their country. In this regard, ELECAM staff must provide outreach services to registered voters by ensuring that voter lists are published 8 days prior to the poll, as required by law. However, voter lists were posted in front of polling stations on the day of the election, which did not facilitate the identification of polling stations by registered voters.

Article 13: (3) Everyone has the right to use public goods and services in the strict equality of all before the law. Like ordinary citizens, people with disabilities deserve equal treatment.

With regard to the promotion and protection of gender equality throughout the electoral process, African Union Member States are required to respect the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted on 1 July 2003, and enacted on 25 November 2005. For example, its article 2 speaks of gender equality in all areas of life, including the civil service and the public service and responsibility. We note with regret, that no female candidacy was retained by the Constitutional Council for the presidential election of October 7, 2018. Despite the demographic majority of women in Cameroon, they are however not able to influence the spaces of participation in political parties in relation to decision-making. Similarly, women’s participation in voting was relatively low (less than 45% of the electorate).

Regarding the legal instruments of the United Nations, Cameroon is a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 19 December 1966 and including optional protocols. This pact was registered ex officio on March 23, 1976. The following articles in relation to Civil and Political Rights guarantee the rights of citizens during the electoral cycle:

Article 3. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of
men and women to enjoy all civil and political rights (...). Therefore, gender equality must be guaranteed throughout the electoral cycle.

Article 7. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Throughout the electoral process, security forces arbitrarily arrested several opposition political activists and later released them. The entire electoral cycle in the North West and South West regions was characterized by considerable armed violence, kidnappings of political party activists by separatist forces, the fire incidence of ELECAM and party buildings by separatist forces, the killing of civilians by the army and the separatist forces, which constitutes human rights violations. The actual polling day was characterized by shooting between the separatist forces and the army.

Article 14: (2) Everyone charged with a criminal offense shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law. The arbitrary arrest of members of the CRM political party on polling day and the surveillance of the home of its president were noted.

Article 21: The right of peaceful assembly is recognized. The exercise of this right may be subject only to restrictions imposed in accordance with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society, in the interest of national security, public safety, or for the protection of health or public morality, or the rights and freedom of others. During the pre-electoral phase, candidates from the UNIERS and CRM party were banned from organizing meetings in Douala, even though the ban was subsequently lifted.

Article 25: Every citizen has the right and the opportunity, without any discriminations referred to in Article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions: (a) to take part in the conduct of public affairs, either directly or through representatives freely chosen; (b) to vote and to be elected, in regular and honest elections, by universal and equal suffrage and by secret ballot, ensuring the free expression of the will of the electors; (c) to have access, under general conditions of equality, to the public functions of his country.

By inference, the right to vote and to participate in public affairs is sacred.

In addition, other provisions are specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 20: (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. (2) no one can be forced to belong to an association.

Article 21: (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs of his country, either directly or through freely chosen representatives. (2) Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country. (3) The will of the people is the foundation of the authority of the public authorities; this will must be expressed through honest elections that must be held periodically, by equal universal suffrage and by secret ballot or by an equivalent procedure ensuring the freedom of the vote.

With regard to the observance of the minimum standards for the organization of free and fair elections by the African Union Member States, the African Union guidelines on election observation and monitoring apply to its Member States.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW, 1979) reaffirms the right of women to participate actively in the life of the nation. Article 7 states that States Parties shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: a) to vote in all elections and public referendums and to be eligible for all organizations publicly elected; (b) to participate in state policy and its execution, to hold public office and to perform all public functions at all levels of government.

UNSCR 1325 (2000) stresses the importance of women’s full and equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace building and peacekeeping, including through the holding of peaceful elections. It calls on Member States to ensure that women participate fully, on an equal footing with men, in all efforts to maintain peace and promote peace and security, and urges all actors to increase women’s participation and to take gender into account in all areas of peacebuilding.

14. « Le Temps, Présidentielle au Cameroun: abstention et violences en zone anglophone »
It is within this framework that WILPF Cameroon and the platform have set up the current Women’s Early Warning Centre so that women, in accordance with the pillars of Participation and Prevention of the Resolution, play a determining role in the pacification of the presidential election.

2. Registered electorate, demography of Cameroon and participation of women and youths

ELECAM registered 6,617,884 voters before the presidential election of 07th October, 2018 in Cameroon with the following figures on women and youth’s participations:

• 3,108,453 women;

• 2,823,878 youths, including 1,299,062 young women.

By induction, very few women have been registered on electoral rolls. This finding may just as well, along with other considerations, be attributed to poor cultural practices that place women on the second position of politics management.

It is interesting to note that Cameroon’s population is growing every year by 2.5% since the publication of the demographic trends in 2008. According to projections, the Cameroonian population currently has more than 25 million inhabitants, with a huge potential to generate a more inclusive and legitimate electorate of at least 12 million potential voters. Unfortunately, the registered electorate of 6,598,553 voters did not meet expectations regarding the current potential of more than 12 million voters.

Regarding the effective participation of registered voters; only about 53% actually took part in this election, which is about 3,400,000 voters, with a turnout of less than 5% in the North West and South West regions.

3. A non-conducive environment for women’s participation

Despite the many education and awareness raising campaigns carried out by various actors before the presidential election of 7 October 2018 to encourage greater participation of women, it is important to note the low participation of women in registration and vote, as mentioned among others, without excluding the fact that there was not a single woman competing. This can be attributed to the fact that the actors in the electoral process have not created enough favorable and friendly public spaces for women to participate freely in the entire electoral process. For example, it is very common to find women at public gatherings of political parties, but with few holders of an electoral card guaranteeing the right to vote.

In order to increase women’s participation in the next elections, it is absolutely necessary for ELECAM, political parties, civil society and other actors to create a much more conducive environment to sensitize more women to the importance of effective participation in the elections especially in the whole electoral process, including standing for election as a candidate in Cameroon.

In addition, it should be noted that remote rural communities in Cameroon are characterized by strict respect for traditional values, even in political decision-making processes such as elections.

For example, in the three regions of the Northern Cameroon, politics is perceived by women as an activity for men, and women are mainly limited to applauding at political gatherings. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that many women voters registered on the electoral list are guided by their spouses in the choice of the candidate contrary to the political choice of the woman.
V- BREAKTHROUGH OF THE PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD

Meeting of a candidate to launch the electoral campaign in Douala

1. The pre-campaign

Before the launch of the election campaign on September 22, 2018, the platform monitored and alerted on conflict driven factors, educated and raised awareness during the pre-election phase and published several press releases aimed at identifying and alerting on the incidents likely to hinder the smooth running of the election. It has also worked to raise the awareness of social and political actors on the importance of promoting peace, and active non-violence especially during the electoral period.

We noted here some incidents and conflict driven factors that motivated these press releases:

- The management of the crisis in the North West and South West considered by many to be bad, and the regular army's disproportionate use of force against attacks by separatist groups and, unfortunately, against civilians, has led to growing insecurity, displacement and mass exodus from the Northwest and Southwest regions to other parts of Cameroon and Nigeria15;

- The application of the curfew by the governors and Divisional Officer (from 6 pm to 6 am) in the North-West region16 for example, considerably restricted freedoms;

- The decrease and relocation, on a non-legal basis, of polling stations in the North-West and South-West regions considered by social and political actors as a sprain that limited the exercise of the right to vote; as well as the transformation of polling stations into voting centers;

- For displaced persons, sometimes without their national identity card or voter's card, no specific provision has been made to facilitate their right to vote;

- Selective registration on electoral rolls;

- The distribution of voter's cards by unauthorized persons (political party leaders, neighborhood leaders)

- The unavailability of national identity cards;

---


16. Communiqué issued by the Governor on September 17, 2018 / communiqué from the Divisional Officer of Fako, which restricts movements and associations in their administrative districts from September 30 to October 2, 2018.
• Multiple registration of certain voters;
• Prohibition of meetings and rallies by opposition political parties and certain CSOs;
• Lack of consensus around the electoral code;
• The use of state resources for electoral purposes;
• The closure of polling stations in some rural areas;
• The non-respect of the democratic game by some activists of political parties.

The rise in hate speech and the rhetoric of tribalism in social media and traditional media was strongly denounced. The CRM and CPDM have been particularly targeted, as illustrated by these activists and messages from Internet users:

➢ ”CPDM is a party of cheaters We know that the CPDM always cheats, but this time it will not cheat anywhere”17.

➢ ”The diabolical plan of Paul BIYA will find us on his way.” We will block the way to his desire to partition the country, to erect secession in the eight regions where the poll could be held in peace on the opposite of English-speaking regions”18.

➢ ”Really uncle maurika is not serious: he who made the bat, a model for the Cameroonian youth, this sinister ethno-fascist ideologist he dare to disavow, is not credible to stigmatize Vision 4 for alleged genocidal remarks against our "anglophone" fellow citizens.” 19

➢ ”PRE-ELECTION MARABOUTISM: The accumulated money of the tyran begins to grease his customers who support him in the ruin of Cameroon. The traditional leaders are the auxiliaries of the CPDM and receive a salary, Cameroon is where with this collision between witchcraft chieftaincy and satanism of a ruinous enjoyer? The squall will carry away all those traitors and beggars ... “

➢ ”What have the Bulu-Beti ever done in the tradition that is known? Go and do your folklore elsewhere and fool the whites, Biya who walked like a tortoise in China is already on the way of no return! ”

➢ ”The declaration of the candidacy of Paul Biya for the presidential election of October 7, 2018 is an insult addressed to Cameroonian, a provocation and a declaration of war. Those among the 25 million Cameroonians who will vote for this monster will sacrifice the future of their children, prolong their poverty and that of their families.”20.

2. The electoral campaign

The electoral campaign was an essential aspect of the communication during the pre-election phase of this presidential election in Cameroon and was characterized by incidents of violence. In accordance with the electoral law (Article 87 (1)), the election campaign started on 22nd September and ended on Saturday 6th October 2018 at midnight. It led to intense activities of conviction and seduction by the 09 candidates. The campaign was marred by multiple incidents both within the population and various media. We noted incidents and conflict driven factors including:

• The late financing of the campaign (in violation of articles 280 and 281, paragraph 1), the meager amount (15 million FCFA) allocated to the political parties for the campaign by the MINAT was the subject of fierce controversy and some parties of the opposition refused to take this sum21;

• Abuse of power by some Sub Divisional Officers through the prohibition of the holding political rallies and meetings of certain opposition parties22;

• The violation of Article 91 of the Electoral Code with regard to campaign postings23;

---

17. Statement of Paul Eric KINGUE published in Le Messager N° 5 148 of 18/09/2018
18. Statement of Joshua OSIH in Le Messager N° 5 148 of 18/09/2018
23. The preliminary declaration on the presidential poll of October 07, 2018 in Cameroon by the network "Dynamique Citoyenne".
• The priority of the display given to the candidate of the ruling party in the main public spaces as well as TV spots and written press;
• The destruction of candidates’ posters. As an illustration, the CRM’s complaint about the violation of Article 91 Paragraph 5 in relation to campaign postings. In Garoua, laceration or destruction of posters of CPDM candidates and ADD on streets and crossroads was observed.

On 14th July 2018 in Maroua, while the Speaker of the National Assembly Cavaye Yégué Djibril was on a tour in the Far-North region, CPDM activists, decided, on his order, to set fire on the emblems of the CRM in front of the latter. The scene was attended by the Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries Dr. Taiga, the Minister Delegate to the Minister of Finance Yaouba Abdoulaye.

• Cases of verbal attacks - hate and tribal speeches or rhetoric defamatory and physical violence between supporters of candidates;

• The drastic reduction and denial to grant accreditation to trained observers from local actors and particularly to civil society organizations that participated in the previous elections organized by the same authorities;
• The misuse of state personnel and resources for the campaign of the ruling party candidate, which resulted in the desertion of administrative services;
• Difficulty for citizens to collect their voter’s card;
• The uneven distribution of commucation time in the public media, corroborated by the newspaper Mutations.

In summary, we noted that the campaign for the presidential election was held in a tense atmosphere and that gunshots were fired in the North West and South West regions, with some communities completely cut off from the vote because of the destruction of major road and bridges by separatist forces.
VI- MONITORING OF CONFLICT DRIVEN FACTORS AND ELECTORAL VIOLENCE ON THE VOTING DAY

Despite the denial of accreditation to WILPF’s observers without any justification, volunteer observers, mostly women, were deployed in 9 regions, with the exception of the Southwest for security reasons. Other strategies were deployed for remote observation by local partners and through the Call Center which enabled the Early Warning Center to receive instant feedback on the voting process.

1- Deployment of observers

166 observers, 63 men and 103 women were deployed in nine regions, with the exception of South West.

They were deployed in pairs to ensure the reliability of incidents reports and to enhance their security.

Observers deployed in Ngaoundéré
Table 1: Deployment of observers in the country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adamaoua</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far North</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littoral</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>103</strong></td>
<td><strong>63</strong></td>
<td><strong>166</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Deployment of observers in the country

2- Main results of the observation

According to the information gathering system put in place, we were able to receive and transmit, on polling day, 1100 calls and messages; 237 calls and 311 calls made via the Call Center; 552 messages received through SMS and WhatsApp groups. It should be noted that more than 800 messages were received, of which 550 fulfilled the criteria for analysis. We note that the same cases were sometimes reported by several people who, for example, called 8243 and sent a message. The summary presented in the following tables is intended to show the frequency of use of the Early Warning Centre to report problems or appreciate the progress of the process.
Table 2: Classification by sex of persons who interacted with the Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Contact by call</th>
<th>Contact by message</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>50.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>48.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not identified</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The content of the calls is presented as follows:

Table 3: Main reasons for calling the Women’s Early Warning Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons of call</th>
<th>Reported cases</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Received calls</td>
<td>Calls issued</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know the purpose of the Early Warning Centre</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request for assistance</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report on cases of fraud cases</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report on cases of violence</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciate the Call center initiative</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciate the voting process</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check the effectiveness of the toll free number</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calls not applicable</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>548</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The content of the messages received is as follows:

Table 4: Main concern in messages received by the Call center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object of message</th>
<th>Number of cases</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request for assistance</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>42.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide an answer</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report on cases of fraud</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>13.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report on cases of violence</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciate the initiative</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share results from vote offices</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciate the voting process</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the analysis, it appears that:

- In accordance with the provisions of the electoral law, polling stations were opened at 8 am and closed at 6 pm in most of the offices observed;
• Observers noted with great appreciation the efforts made by ELECAMEL to make election materials available and to facilitate operations for persons with disabilities in a number of polling stations;

• The atmosphere was generally calm, with the exception of the entire North-West and South-West regions, which were victims of numerous atrocities, including gunfire, fire incidents and death.

• Observers appreciated the presence of election officials at polling stations.

• However, the information collected through the Call Center and messages revealed numerous irregularities and violence in this election, as illustrated in the two figures below:

Figure 2: Rate of irregularities and violence reported through calls

Figure 3: Rate of irregularities and violence reported through messages

The most noted grounds of complaint were:
(a) Late posting of voters lists in front of the polling stations;
(b) Expulsion of certain representatives of opposition parties and polling station observers (these cases were reported in almost all regions covered);
(c) Deprivation of the right to vote: Many voters, including youths who possessed voting cards, and were not listed, were denied access to the polling stations in all the regions;
(d) Insecurity in the North West and South West regions prevented many citizens from exercising their voting rights; on Election Day, these regions were in a state of violence, curfew, and

---

permanent war. More than before, there have been multiple calls for peace and dialogue from various national and international actors, which is ample proof of the existence of deep discomfort and a truly conflicting environment.

Many IDPs were unable to exercise their right to vote, while high-ranking members of the ruling party were able to exercise their voting rights out of their official polling stations. In this case, the Prime Minister as well as 82 other personalities, had applied to vote out of their official voting pool, for security reasons, but this request was rejected on October 4, 2018. Ignoring this rejection, the Prime Minister still voted elsewhere, after the deadline for application of a transfer provided for in Article 83 of the Electoral Code would have been exceeded.

(e) Violence reported to the Women’s Early Warning Center can be grouped into two broad categories: violations of the laws, including those reported as cases of electoral fraud, (174 cases) and other forms of violence (physical, psychological and verbal abuse, 192 cases). To these figures, is added the data reported from the field by observers (only new elements that have not been communicated, neither by call at 8243, nor by message).

Violence reported on polling day was listed according to the following table:

**Types of Violence**

50,36% 49,64%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Violence</th>
<th>Number of reported cases by call</th>
<th>Number of reported cases by message</th>
<th>Number of newly reported cases by observers on the field</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electoral violence</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>49,64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation of the law</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>50,36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In Mayo Danay, two members of the UNIVER S party were kidnapped the day before the election. One of them was found in a state of unconsciousness more than 80 km away from his home on Election Day.
- The head of the Forestry Post in Meiganga, was assaulted on October 7 after leaving the polling station, in the middle of passersby. On the morning of October 9, people threatened to harm him and his family. He was planning to transfer his family to another locality when he called the Center and received appropriate and useful advice.
- The North-West and South-West regions were the scene of serious gun battles, kidnappings, destruction, injuries and deaths at the polls, in some localities preventing voting.

**Deaths and injuries from crossfire between firearms**
- In Bali North-west, Mrs. Margaret Lekunga Ndasi was killed on the evening of the vote and her husband was wounded on the leg;
- In Akum, Mr. Chinje Boniface's wife was kidnapped and murdered for voting.
- 2 youths who were going to vote were
murdered by hooded men at Hospital round about, Bamenda;

- In Buea, in the South-West region, the Sub-Divisional Officer, Mr. Wokam was ambushed by armed separatists who emerged from the bush. He was shot with a bullet and his car damaged by bullets.
- In Buea, the Cameroon Tribune convoy was attacked at the entrance of the city between 6 am and 7 am on October 7, 2018, there was no death;
- At Mutenguene Government Primary School, doors were forced open to install voting material and a number of teachers were forced to join the election team in these polling stations. On polling day, highly secure, the people working there masked themselves for fear of being recognized. At the Lay Foundation Trust Private School Complex, after the results were released, the school principal, who had already received threats from secessionists not to allow voting take place in his school compound, was victim of horrible acts of violence: first, his child was kidnapped and he had to pay a ransom for him to be released. Then, secessionist fighters went to burn three cars belonging to his wife and him, and broke the screens of the school cars. Finally, secessionists armed with machetes threatened to kill students and teachers. After that, the school has been closed up till date.

**Threats and intimidation:**

- Campaign banners of the CPDM candidate (in the South) and UNIVERS and MCNC parties (in the Center) remained hanging at the entrance of the polling stations. One can mention the case of the Catholic mission of Nko’ovos located in the city center in front of Mvila travel agencies; and that of the entrance to the Mendong Public School in Yaoundé.
- On the instructions of the elites, the regional representative of the CRM in the South was replaced by a CPDM activist in his own village (Azem). It was the same with the SDF representative in Nkolandom.
- In the Far North, at Mbinka and Mbot in Ndonga-Mantum, Nkambe, the exclusion of CRM representatives was noted.
- In the Menoua division, the polling station of Fotomena Catholic School was temporarily closed at 11.30 am, with the complicity of the ELECAM representative.
- In Buéa-Lysoka, the house of Human Rights Defender Embola Robert was set on fire by separatists who accused him of taking an active part in the elections;
- In Kumba, there were death threats against Human Rights Defender Akonlo by the separatists for his involvement in the electoral process.
- In Mutenguene, during the electoral process, the village chief urged people to vote freely without any threat and also called for the resumption of classes. After the election, he was kidnapped and released after more than ten hours of captivity.

**Arbitrary arrests:**

- One of the most illustrative cases was the arrest and arbitrary detention of Mr. Joseph Thierry Okala Ebode, Deputy National Treasurer of the CRM and Professor at the Department of Political Science at the Yaoundé II University, arrested on 7th October for protesting that someone had voted in his place. He was only released on October 15, 2018;
- A representative of the CRM in Baham was arrested and locked up in the Territorial
Brigade for having opposed fraud;

- An observer from the NGO “Un Monde Avenir” in Yaoundé was arrested and detained before being released following the intervention of the national coordinator; an observer from WILPF Cameroon in Bonabéri saw here phone seized and all the photos erased;
- In Bangou, the brigade commander issued arrest warrants against certain representatives of the CRM, which obliged them to leave the polling stations.

**Cases of electoral fraud, sources of violence**

- It was noted that CPDM elite corrupted the administrative authorities, the presidents of the polling stations and the traditional authorities (Case of Baham, Bandja, in the South, the Far North, the North)

- Traditional chiefdoms were used as polling stations in some communities, and this influenced voter’s behavior and, to a certain extent, enemies and subjects who do not share the same political aspirations and sensibilities with the chiefs were not allowed to vote, for example most of the remote communities of Mfou.31

- Special voting centers were created in the North West, which was a means of fraud, but most importantly exposed the people to the madness of the separatists;

- There have been several complaints about cases of vote-buying with voters that would bring back the opposition party’s ballot. This is the case of the polling station at Hiala and Bapi Public School in the Upper Plateaux and in Bandja; Mrs. AYISSATOU, SDF representative of the at the polling station of the MINKOK chieftancy / in the SOUTH region after having suffered damaging attacks, the head of the village of MINKOK

- Mr. Ernest ABOMO, then asked her to fill the ballot box with the CPDM ballots but the offer was rejected; the president of Bangangte High Court, M Ondoua Ndo Olivier, seized the signed minutes and refused to give a copy to each agent; the chair of the divisional supervision committee ran away with the minutes and the representatives of political parties did not have a copy.

- The ballot papers of candidate Akere Muna, who had given his votes to the candidate Maurice Kamto, were not withdrawn from the polling stations, a situation which confused voters.32

- Cases of vote for deceased persons, non-registered voters and youths under 20 years of age were recorded. It is not only in the South region that some non-registered or deceased persons voted for the CPDM candidate. It happened in several polling stations. Example: in two polling stations of Mbanga Dzeng divisions in Nyong and So'o in the Center, at Daido government school, some people voted in the place of absentees or dead people; children under the age of 20 were forced by their parents to vote. They were given envelopes containing the CPDM ballot paper well in advance.

- In a polling station after the "Green Bridge" in Maroua in the Far North, 181 voters out of the 220 registered voters actually voted. But the governor of the region gave instructions for all the remaining 220 votes to be taken into account, for the CPDM to get a good score.

- According to the information received through the call center, despite the general calm observed on Election Day, the election witnessed numerous cases of irregularities and violence which can be considered as serious conflict driven factors, favoring a tense social climate, fragilising peace, social cohesion, security, human rights and freedom.

---

31 The observation report on the presidential election of October 07, 2018 Cameroon of Mfou, Centre Region.
Closing and vote counting

In accordance with the electoral law, the voting proper ended at 6 pm, followed by vote counting procedures and operations. The presidents of the polling stations started counting the votes. This crucial phase of the electoral process was conducted publicly and in the presence of representatives of the ruling party and some opposition parties, as well as voters and observers (national and international). Unfortunately, even in the cities, the counting took place in inadequate conditions (lack of electricity) but the presence of our observers was really beneficial as they possessed flashlights and provided light where they were.

The count was generally calm and transparent, but there were some cases of disagreement. In the voting center of the public school Logbessou two ballot boxes were diverted but recovered by the population, while in Bangangte, the minutes reports were not given to the various representatives as provided by the electoral code.

In summary, the manual counting system with limited access to electricity and the limited presence of representatives of opposition political parties in the polling stations made it difficult to determine whether the procedure was conducted peacefully and according to the rules enacted in the electoral code or not.
VII- EVOLUTION OF THE POST-ELECTORAL PERIOD

The post-election period of the 2018 presidential election, was undoubtedly the most tumultuous of the electoral history of Cameroon. From the closing of the polls to the oath taking of the president, the following highlights that have attracted the attention of observers from all walks of life:

- On 8 October 2018, the CRM candidate, Professor Maurice Kamto, held a press conference during which he declared himself the winner of the elections, in light of the reports provided to him by various representatives of his political party. Considered as an act of manipulation of conscience, this conflict driven statement provoked heated controversy fueled by hate speeches, insults and tribal based speeches increasingly exacerbating. The social media became a breeding ground for hate speech. we read for example, " As soon as the CRM triggers, the Beti, Bulu, Bassa will burn all the property of Bamis " / " A Bamileke will never be president in Cameroon " / "As long as Yaunde lives, never a Bamileke in Etoudi "

- On 9 October 2018, at 8 pm, on the national television news program, fake observers claiming to be members of Transparency International held a press conference during which they stated that the voting process was conducted in very good conditions, without major irregularity. Two days later, Transparency International, through its local representation, said it had not mandated any observers on the ground for the October 7 presidential election in Cameroon. The Catholic Church, through a press conference by the President of the Episcopal Conference, casted doubt on the reliability and legitimacy of the elections given the many irregularities and the security situation in the North-West and South West regions of Cameroon;

- SDF, CRM and UNIVERS party candidates denounced numerous irregularities and introduced a request before the Constitutional Council, some for a partial cancellation and the SDF for a total cancellation of the vote. A member of the G20 states that "the appeals made by opposition members are doomed to fail".

---

33 The declaration of Maurice Kamto Cf Le Jour of 09 10 2018 « J’ai marqué le Plénitude »
35 Infos Matin « Kamto joue avec le feu ». 
37 The preliminary declaration on the presidential poll of October 07, 2018 in Cameroon by the network “Dynamique Citoyenne”.
38. Le Messager of 11/10/2018 « Les évêques montent au créneau et dénoncent une fraude massive ». 
39 : The preliminary declaration on the presidential poll of October 07, 2018 in Cameroon by the network “Dynamique Citoyenne”.
• On October 16, 2018, debates on electoral disputes began. The CRM candidate started by questioning the impartiality of a Constitutional Council appointed by the incumbent. For three days, there were boisterous, professional and highly mediated debates; at the end of which the Constitutional Court declared the motions inadmissible, for lack of evidence.

• The proclamation of the results by the Constitutional Council on 22 November 2018 gave Mr. Paul Biya of the CPDM party winner of the election with a percentage of 71.28% of the votes cast. At the same time, tensions increased in the North-West and South-West regions (shooting at the University of Bamenda on October 22, murder of a professor on October 24, houses burned, teachers mutilated, students kidnapped and some murdered, assassination of an American pastor, just name to a few.

• The post-election period was also marked by an excessive militarization of the main cities of the country where the slightest contestations could be suspected (Bafoussam, Douala, Yaounde). Similarly, the homes of opinion leaders (Kah Walla, Prof. Kamto, Dzongang) and the headquarters of the opposition party (UNIVERS party in Yaounde, CRM in Douala) were under permanent siege by forces of defense40 thus the restriction of freedom of expression. This culminated to the arrest of the correspondent of the newspaper Le Messager in Bafoussam, the incarceration of the journalist Mimi Mefo of Equinox television, etc.

• The smallest attempts at peaceful demonstrations were violently fought back by the police and the army: the march of protest against the “electoral hold-up” in Douala on October 27, with inhuman treatment and arrest of militants of the CRM (Lawyer Michèle Ndoki and others)41; in Yaoundé on October 28 in front of the cathedral, youths were arrested and brutalized by the judicial police to the point where the young woman Astou Shou lost her 4 months pregnancy);

• In Bafoussam on November 3, many CRM activists were arrested, a press conference at the home of Barrister Yondo Black was neutralized by the police.

• As soon as the results were announced, the Cameroonian diaspora organized massive peaceful demonstrations in main cities in some European countries, the United States and even in Africa (Senegal and South Africa) to express its disapproval of the “electoral hold-up”.

• Faced with the undeniable outburst against the candidate of the CRM Maurice Kamto, both in social networks and in the national media, intellectuals clearly expressed their indignation42.

• Throughout the electoral process, what observers from all over regarded as the greatest threat to peace and individual freedom has been the weakening of the social climate through tribal hate speech seen both on social and conventional media, but unfortunately also used by intellectuals.

On November 6, 2018, Mr. Paul Biya, the elected candidate of the CPDM, took the oath before the Parliament as president for a seventh term. The swearing in took place in a deleterious atmosphere, considering the police and military deployed in the city of Yaoundé to counter any protest. The same day, a declared meeting of the CRM at the Amadou Ahidjo stadium was prevented by the police and some militants were arrested. At the same time, Prof. Maurice Kamto, the CRM candidate, made a statement to his militants at Rond-point Nlongkak, an action which was also interrupted by the police.

To date, the political climate remains tense, as Maurice Kamto and his national and diaspora supporters continue to claim "stolen victory", leaving an air of insecurity and threat to peace.

In addition, the post-electoral climate has been characterized by an increase in hate speech and tribal threats that have degenerated into post-election strike actions in Douala, Bafoussam and Yaoundé before and after the announcement of the final election results. Expressions such as “the Anglo-bami corridor, people who want our dear power” revived hatred and tribalism. This tense situation which explains the uneven playing field of the electoral period has been exacerbated by ongoing incursions between the separatist forces and the regular army in the North West and South West regions. To stop this armed conflict, the government has to engage parties in meaningful dialogue.

41 Camerounweb, General News of Saturday, 27 October 2018, Me Michelle Ndoki sérieusement bastonnée par la police,
42 Pr. Charly Gabriel Mbock on Vision 4 on 14 October, Pr. Bahebeck on STV on 27 October.
VIII- VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DURING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

According to UN Women, violence against women during election is a form of violence "intended to influence the realization of women's political rights in an electoral context." The main forms of violence against women during an election period are psychological, physical and sexual. To this we can add structural violence, which is the mechanism used to prevent women from participating effectively in the electoral process. The latter case was fully demonstrated during the electoral process and on Election Day, particularly with the low representation of women in local committees and polling stations (26%); which supposes that upstream actions have provoked this type of violence. In all phases of the process, women have been victims of violence.

1. Pre-election phase

Our team noted the absence of female candidates for the presidential election.

ELECAM registered 6,617,884 voters before the presidential election of 07th October, 2018 in Cameroon with the following figures on women and youth’s participations:

- 3,108,453 women;
- 2,823,878 youths, including 1,299,062 young women.

Fewer women have been registered on the electoral roll than men, which can be attributed, among other things, to poor cultural practices which relegate women to second roles in politics. The presidential election observation report of the NGO SERVITAS Cameroon shows an under-representation of women in the electoral commissions, and even among the ELECAM delegates. In 1,773 local commissions, there are 19,503 members, of whom only 1,438 are women.

On the field, there were cases of violence:

The vice-president of the CRM was threatened by a relative of a government member and later by himself, asking her to leave this political party and join the CPDM against an employment in a state company. In addition, they put forward the tribal argument to try to convince her.

On 06 August 2018, during the "100% presidential" broadcast on the CRTV, the journalist Cathérine Toulou Elanga, who was to present part of a TV program, was humiliated and chased off the plateau at the request of the UDC candidate Garga Haman Hadji next to whom she sat to present her program. When she sat down, he asked, "Who is she? I do not know her ... let her go

present and her part far from me”; and this is how that part of the programme was canceled.

An observer trained by WILPF Cameroon said: "This scene was very humiliating for this woman, at the same time a verbal and psychological violence aggrivated by the public milieus; and this act needs to be denounced so that the actors of the political scene in this eve of election learn how to communicate in a violent way, and to give consideration to women".

In Douala, an activist was prevented from joining the political party of her choice, because her husband prejudged that she will be dealing with men. After long discussions with her husband, the husband decided to contact the leaders of the party himself to obtain the contacts of a woman member of the party who he requested to be the main interlocutor with his wife.

On the eve of the election, some women complained about the confiscation of their voter's cards, because they were known to have a preference for a candidate other than the one imposed by their spouses.

In Ngoulemakong, an elite asked our observer to show her marriage certificate to prove that she is married to a person from the village, before asking any questions about the election. The observer, whose role was to sensitize women on their participation in the electoral process, also found that Ngoulemakong women are disconnected from politics for fear of reprisals by the elites.

In Kamelone (Dja and Lobo, South Region of Cameroon), WILPF's observer and her family were considered "opponents" in the locality because of the misunderstanding of the objectives pursued by WILPF Cameroon.

Girls from different families complained to the observer in Ngaoundere that they are being intimidated by their parents who do not want to hear from any other party than the one they support.

WILPF Cameroon alongside other organizations, applied to MINAT to get accreditation for their observers. Other organizations saw the number of their accreditation reduced drastically, WILPF Cameroon was simply denied accreditation. In the absence of notification of the reason for the refusal, we think that this is a case of structural violence to limit women’s participation in political processes.

2. Election day

Of the 207 cases (49.64%) of violence observed on October 7, 2018, 82 cases (39, 61%) are electoral violence against women, grouped into physical, psychological, verbal and sexual violence. However, it was observed that in all the polling stations visited; women accounted for only 26%, which justifies the structural violence inflicted on women during the electoral process44.

- Our focal point in Bamenda was threatened by secessionist for her commitment to the defense of human rights especially for women;
- An ELECAM official brutalized an observer of the NGO SERVITAS Cameroon, in the office C of the Youpwe government School in the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 6: Electoral Violence and Electoral Violence Against Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elements observed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electoral violence against women</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other electoral violence</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The purpose of this table is to highlight the rate of violence against women in relation to all observed electoral violence.

The following figure shows that psychological violence was most prevalent:

![Violence against women on polling day](image)

Figure 5: Violence against women on polling day

Littoral region. In the South West (Buea), two women were beaten and driven out of their marital homes by their husbands for voting, another killed in Bamenda for the same reason, two days after the vote.

- A victim, who remained anonymous, was excluded from her family discussion group because she braved the ban to vote;
- There was also a case of sexual harassment in Buea. One of the women expelled by the husband took refuge in a hotel, where a member of her political party claimed to support her by paying the accommodation fees. But in the evening, the "benefactor" came back to her room asking for a sexual compensation. The woman refused and the man thus orchestrated blackmail, saying that the woman had extorted him some money to pay for her hotel bill.
- In Mutengene, two cases were reported of women who were stripped naked in public as punishment for voting.
- In the East, North and Adamaoua regions, some spouses prevented their wives from going to vote. Another in the East was locked up by her husband, while another prevented his wife from accessing the polling station;
- Several cases of intimidation were reported. In Yaoundé, for example, at the polling center of Government School Essos, a voter was prevented from voting. Officials miserably informed her that without the voter’s card she could not vote, although she had a national identity card with which the law permits to vote.
  - Our observers reported cases of women who could not read and write and who were insulted and ridiculed for asking for help. This traumatized some of them who went away without voting.
  - In Bali (North-West), Mrs. Margaret Lekunga Ndasu was killed on the night of the vote because she went to vote; her husband was shot on the leg;
  - In Akum, Chinje Boniface’s wife was kidnapped and murdered for voting.

3- Post-election phase

The protest marches against the "electoral hold up" in Douala on October 27 with inhuman treatment and arrest of militants of the CRM (Lawyer Michèl Ndoki), in Yaounde on October 28 in front of the cathedral (some youths were arrested and maltreated by the judicial police at the point that the young woman, Astou Shou lost her 4 months pregnancy), in Bafoussam on November 3, many militants of the CRM were arrested. On social media, there was a smear campaign against some political women leaders: Michèl Ndoki and Kah Walla, to the point where cruel insults were used to try to disarm them psychologically. A woman confessed to us that she is very worried as her husband has forbidden her from then on to carry out any political activity and to communicate and interact with other members of her political party.

45. By decency, the remarks made will not be included in the report
IX- SOME RESPONSES FROM THE WOMEN’S EARLY WARNING CENTER

The Women’s early Warning Center is designed to educate, watch, alert and provide urgent responses to incidents reported, prevent violence or mitigate its impact. Solutions were provided to the complaints at all stages of the process:

• Prior to the election, the Women’s Early warning Center’s activities contributed to increased women’s participation in the process by registering them as voters and calling them to vote.

• Youths and women trained to use social media to promote peace and non-violence have consistently responded to hate speeches and division with peaceful messages.

• Press releases were regularly issued to notify incidents and potentially conflict driven factors identified on the field in order to call for restraint and non-violence.

• Also, two awareness campaigns on peace were conducted on social media, one on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, the other on the eve of the election. Still at the eve of the election, communication spots were broadcasted through the media, to encourage a peaceful vote and to communicate the Call center hotline number 8243. Through the Call Center, 3.65% of callers needed assistance, and instant solutions were proposed and in most cases these solutions satisfied the callers. By way of illustration, M Bouteng Olivier, head of the Meiganga Forestry Post, was assaulted on 07
October after leaving the polling station. In the morning of October 9, people came to his house and threatened to hurt him and his family. He decided to move to a different locality and was planning to do so. Despite his reticence, he listened to the advice to approach the Sub-Divisional Officer, Elecam’s officials and his hierarchy, to seek protection. We called him later as a follow up to the case, and he confirmed that the Sub-Divisional Officer and the Elecam representative made arrangements to secure his family, and personally went to meet him to reassure him.

- On the polling day, the Call Center helped several voters to easily find their polling stations. For example, a voter at Government School Mendong in Yaoundé, who did not find his name after going through several lists, was directed through the indication of the letter corresponding to his polling station, shown on his voter’s card. At Government School Essos in Yaoundé, a female voter who was intimidated because she did not have a voter’s registration card, had the necessary argument through the Call Center to exercise her right, namely article 103 (2) of the Electoral Code.

- Faced with other cases, for example people who did not find their names on the voters’ lists, we gave them the ELECAM hotline number 8282 to find a solution.

- In Bangou in the West Region, the CRM representative who was kicked out of the polling station and replaced by someone else, called to know what attitude to adopt, we told him to be calm while we contacted the party officials who finally handled the case.

- In Yaoundé, an observer called the Center to report the arrest and detention of an observer from the NGO Un Monde Avenir. Immediately, we contacted the coordinator of the organization who took steps to ensure that his observer was quickly released. In the same way, the arrest of our observer was reported in Douala, and the regional coordinator of the platform for the Littoral went to the site to solve the problem. The votes counting at the end of the Election Day took place under inappropriate conditions (lack of electricity), the presence of our observers, as well as those of Un Monde Avenir, was helpful because our observers had flashlights.

The launch of the toll-free number (8243), facilitated contacts and communication with trained observers on the field and provided them with the necessary assistance in carrying out their mission.
SALLE DE VEILLE ET D’ARLETTE DES FEMMES
POUR LA PREVENTION DES VIOLENCES ELECTORALES

WOMEN’S EARLY WARNING CENTRE
PREVENTING ELECTORAL VIOLENCE

The results, lessons learned and suggestions of different stakeholders related to this initiative have enabled WILPF Cameroon team and the "Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections" platform to consider the following perspectives, whose key point is to keep the Centre operational throughout the entire electoral process:

• Strengthen communication around the Women's Early Warning Centre;
• Organize a workshop to share good practices related to the implementation of the Women's Early Warning Centre;
• Continue with community awareness campaigns on the importance of women's participation in peace processes, especially during elections; on withdrawal of voters' cards and voter registration (in partnership with all actors) and on peace education and non-violence;
• Provide a desk for political parties in the Early Warning Center to allow them share their political and Women, Peace and Security agenda; use the space to have regular meetings with stakeholders of the electoral process to discuss activities and possible synergies;
• Support political parties in the implementation of their Peace and Security agenda;
• Collaborate with other early warning mechanisms, in particular that of ELECAM, and providing technical support for new watch, alert and early warning initiatives, for joined sensitization and educative actions for women and youths in the electoral process;
• Support the MINPROFF in the implementation of other Women's Early Warning Initiatives in accordance with UNSCR 1325 NAP;
• Organize other training workshops for youths and women on the use of social media networks to promote peace;
• Strengthen collaboration with ELECAM and UN agencies; with the police and MINAT, to facilitate the management of cases of incidents, violations and physical violence reported;
• Set up a legal clinic to support and respond to the concerns of victims of electoral violence; Map out cases of electoral violence and electoral violence against women during the process in Cameroon, built around the types of violence, and quantitative and qualitative data to analyze the extent of violence in order to propose mechanisms of mitigation and ongoing monitoring, then find out the root causes of women's poor participation at all levels of the...
XI- RECOMMENDATIONS

electoral process.

At the end of our participation in the presidential election process of October 07 2018 in Cameroon, WILPF Cameroon and the Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections platform wish to remind the presidential winner of his responsibility to engage in inclusive mediation talks with the leaders and inhabitants of the North West and South West Regions to solve the ongoing armed conflict that has been rocking these regions for the last two years.

The improvement of the electoral process by revising the legal framework, for a better inclusive participation of women, youths from 18 years and above, people living with a handicap; the promotion of political, judicial and electoral reforms aiming at consolidating democracy, good governance, peace and stability, freedom and human rights.

More specifically, in order to prevent and reduce electoral violence, WILPF Cameroon and the Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections platform formulate the following recommendations to the attention of the different actors of the electoral process.

1- To the government of Cameroon
- Take into account the recommendations made by the different actors in order to guarantee a more inclusive, conducive and peaceful environment during the upcoming elections;
- Proceed to the revision by consensus of certain provisions of the electoral code in order to correct irregularities and reduce cases of electoral violence;
- Reinforce the independence and powers of the national communication council to help fight hate speeches and tribalism more effectively;
- Adopt a law to sanction hate speeches and tribalism;
- Guarantee a stable access to internet during the electoral cycle;
- Give accreditations to an adequate number of observers from the civil society;
- Intensify the political engagement of women and their participation in the electoral process;
- Popularize the political training manual (MINPROFF, 2012) through awareness campaigns for women and girls.

2- To ELECAM
- Improve on the registration process of
voters with inter operation of kits and the immediate deliverance of voter’s cards;
  • Examine the procedure of creation, designation and deployment of agents in polling stations so as to guarantee the control of operations on the field;
  • Figure out a durable interaction with political parties and all other stakeholders in the electoral process for more inclusive participation;
  • Paste electoral rolls in front of polling stations 8 days before the election to enable voters easily identify their voting offices and make arrangements in a timely manner in case of any problem;
  • Improve communication around the provisions of transfer to allow internally displaced persons and other people in need to vote and also take action to regulate the voluntary withdrawal of candidates;
  • Reinforce the participation of women at all levels of the electoral process;
  • Reinforce the implication of all actors by creating a permanent consultation framework;
  • Ensure a specific and stronger collaboration with the Delegation of National Security to enable youths at voting age to systematically obtain their voter’s card at the moment of the withdrawing their NIC;
  • Develop an updated code of conduct and a handbook guide for the electoral process.

3- To political parties
  • In accordance with the law, strengthen the capacities and presence of their representatives in polling stations including in rural areas;
  • Preserve peace by avoiding all speeches of defiance and disorder, respect the law in force concerning the proclamation of results;
  • Improve the political education of party members then promote and encourage the nomination of women during the next elections;
  • Maintain permanent dialogue with party members;
  • Disclose their peace and security and namely their Women, Peace and Security agenda on in order to agree with other actors on common actions to undertake for a better political participation of women and peace building.

4- To civil society actors
  • Educate and inform the population on their rights and duties and on the necessity to live together in harmony and contribute to promoting social cohesion;
  • Undertake specific initiatives and advocacy to protect digital rights of citizens, their online content and their data traffic during the electoral period for the next terms;
  • Avoid all speeches likely to fuel conflict and hinder peace and social cohesion;
  • Strengthen the operational scope of the Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections network in the 360 local districts of Cameroon as a concrete response to strengthening women’s participation throughout the electoral period.

5- To the media
  • Create specific programs to educate citizens and women in particular on the importance of their participation in the electoral process;
  • Ensure the respect of the regulation regarding the time and space of expression granted to political parties;
  • Support women’s early warning initiatives as a way to preserve peace especially during electoral periods.

6- To all actors of the electoral process
  • Intensify the promotion of the political commitment and participation of women in the electoral process;
  • Educate the population on their political participation and the electoral process;
  • Improve the citizenship, peace and non-violence education and;
  • Promote mechanisms which will help put an end to tribalism and hate speeches.
CONCLUSION

At the end of the electoral process, WILPF Cameroon and the Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections platform contributed through the Women’s Early Warning Center to the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 NAP in Cameroon, in increasing the participation of women as voters, observers and peace ambassadors in their communities. The main goal being education for peace, watch, alert and observation of conflict driven incidents and electoral violence through the Women’s Early Warning Initiative; it contributed to “disarm” minds of many people throughout the electoral process, through publications and calls for restrain and active non violence. Considering the precarious political climate which prevailed, we recommended types of attitudes to adopt to protest and reclaim for justice in a peaceful manner.

Despite the incidents and violence noticed, WILPF Cameroon and the Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections Network:

- Congratulate the Cameroonian population who showed proof of self control and an elevated sense of patriotism with regards to imperfections;
- Recognize and congratulate the efforts deployed by ELECAM to organize the elections and plead on them for more transparency;
- Ask all political parties and their members, partisans and sympathizers to always use legal and peaceful means in case of electoral disputes;
- Invite all interveners in the electoral process in Cameroon, to put more efforts to guarantee the respect of the democratic game, so as to preserve peace and stability, presently tempered with in our country and particularly during this presidential election period considering the increasing security challenges our country is facing at the moment and because of the passions aroused by the presidential election, the experiences of electoral conflicts that have literally plunged some countries into an infernal cycle of war, and considering forthcoming regional, legislative and municipal elections. We therefore launch a vibrant call so for all actors to join hands to solve the current crises, to prevent the occurrence of new ones as well as the electoral violence in our country.

The Women’s Early Warning Initiative remains one of the must adequate mechanisms able to manage with the least possible stress situations linked to the electoral process that can easily go out of control.
REACTIONS OF SOME ACTORS, STAKEHOLDERS

“The transformation due to WILPF Cameroon trainings is considerable and perceptible: training on social media has allowed us to improve our use of social networks, in particular by providing tools to discern fake news from reality; the sensitization of women in my community to register on the electoral rolls and participate in the presidential elections, the management of the post-electoral crisis with more temperance, the control of the electoral process by the observation proper of the election, mastering the management of a call center”.

Armelle Tsafack, WILPF Cameroon

“Through these activities, I realized how important dialogue is in preventing conflict and anticipating risks. I also understood that peace maintains social cohesion. As an organization, these activities have brought us commendable benefits. They allowed us to accentuate the promotion of peace in our actions. In the quest for this peace, we engage in our activities, alongside minorities. We try to influence the policies, to have laws that preserve interests of the citizen, and therefore maintain peace. Every day, around me, I give myself the responsibility to sensitize young people on the imperative need to live in peace, and that goes through the search for common well-being, and therefore commit to claim this good!”

David Moukoudi, 1 Monde Avenir

“The training on the promotion of peace through the use of social media allowed me to review my way of using social networks, especially by directing my publications towards awareness and search for peace and avoiding sharing or like publications that may incite violence or hatred. Moreover, in Ndikinimeki where I am, I do not fail to subtly bring to reason people holding hate speech against other tribes in general and Bamileke in particular.”

AldolpheNguemekoua, Association of Men Engaged for the Promotion of Gender Equality (HEPROGES)

The trainings in which I took part allowed me to have a new glance on the electoral process in its entirety, to better identify the various stakes of an election, to know how to observe the various stages of the electoral process in Cameroon and even beyond that, to measure the influence that social media have in the political game and social cohesion and especially to know how to use it for more laudable purposes. The trainings also allowed me to establish links with other observers with whom we now share experiences on the ground. The trainings had the merit of bringing out the qualities of leadership hidden in me.”

Donald Nguepi, Young WILPF Cameroon

“Personally I congratulate WILPF Cameroon for its extraordinary mobilization throughout the year 2018, especially the National Coordinator who really plays her role of leader, it’s really very positive. Of course, More Women in Politics by my voice thanks for the trust by inviting us to the various promising activities, on several occasions I felt more trained; I also note the spirit of innovation, (...) All our encouragement and more power to the Cameroonian civil society.”

Elise Diffo, More Women in Politics

As an individual I’ve learnt quite a lot from my participation in all WILPF’s trainings especially those concerning peace actions. Firstly I got to have an in depth understanding of the Resolution 1325 on women’s participating in peace processes. The training on collecting data about the level of awareness of the said resolution has greatly enhanced my knowledge in data collection and exposed me to a variety of networks. Secondly, the organization of focus group discussions around women’s participation in peace processes has enabled me to acquire more skills in facilitating discussions on thematic areas of peace. Also my participation in the Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections including the launching of the Call Centre has given me a wide range of skills in issues of operating a call center with regards to women’s issues and elections. Summarily my time of work with WILPF has improved on my work experience as a peace activist. It has made me open to so many ideas and networks

Cynthia Wakuna, Mother of Hope Cameroon, member of the Platform.
1 - Data collection Sheet from the call center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The caller ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject of the call</th>
<th>Identification of violence type</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2 - Data collection Sheet on conflict driven factors and violence against women

PREVENTING ELECTORAL VIOLENCE THROUGH THE + WOMEN'S EARLY WARNING INITIATIVE®

2. DATA COLLECTION SHEET ON CONFLICT DRIVEN FACTORS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Observer name:
Phone / Email:
Region – Division – Sub Division:
Localities observed:
Date:
Name of the regional focal point:

Note: 1. For the credibility of the observation, please provide all possible details.
2. The information collected will be used internally and treated in strict confidence.
3. In case of problems, the field observer should first refer to the regional focal point.

A. VIOLENCE OBSERVED IN YOUR LOCALITY BEFORE THE ELECTION DAY

| Types of violence | Manifestations in your locality
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attacks against individuals (rape, sexual exploitation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moral attacks (sexual harassment)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological/affective violence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discriminations (tribal, religious, cultural, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hate speeches (insults, blackmail, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B - REMARKS BY OBSERVERS

1. Specific events worthy of note

1. Facts reported to observers (with reference to the identity of the person who reported the facts).
2. General atmosphere before the elections
3. Women’s activities before the election

Possible recommendations for a peaceful and non-violent election
3 - Data collection form on the voting day

07 OCTOBER 2018 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

DATA COLLECTION SHEET

DATA COLLECTION SHEET 1

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Preventing electoral violence through the Women’s Early Warning Initiative in Cameroon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Sylvia Jacqueline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NDJINGOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Officer</td>
<td>Gay FEUKAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local coordinator</td>
<td>609583782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>674162369</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: In case of a problem, the observer of land must first refer to the team leader or call 8243 the Call Centre

MONITORING ON THE VOTING DAY

Name of 1st observer: ___________________________ Contact: ___________________________

Name 2nd observer: ___________________________ Contact: ___________________________

Team Leader’s Name: ___________________________ Contact: ___________________________

A. INFORMATION ON VOTING OFFICE CONTROL AND OTHERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>DIVISION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polling Station Number</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departure Time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of candidates running</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of stations visited</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other places visited</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. COMMENTS ON THE OUTSIDE AND THE ENTRY OF POLLING STATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Is there easy access to polling stations?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Are voting polls well-reported?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Are voting polls large enough?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Can a disabled person gain easy access to the polls without assistance?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Is the electoral list displayed in front of the polling station?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Are campaign material found within the confines of the polling station?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Are campaign materials found close to the polling station?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Are campaign activities going on within the polling station?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Are campaign activities going on close to the polling station?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Are there unusually long queues?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Are there any abnormal delays?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the same Division

For example: Chiefdoms, market place,Roundabouts, etc.
### D. PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Are women present in the voting stations?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Do women have access to polling stations?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### E. ELECTORAL VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN VOTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Were women prevented from going to the polls?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Were women prevented from going to the polls?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### C. OBSERVATION PROCEDURES FOLLOWED AT THE POLLING STATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observation Procedure</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Were there any inappropriate actions by polling station staff?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Were there any instances of bullying, corruption, and discrimination?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Were there any cases of violence against women voters?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Do women face pressure, intimidation and humiliation?  
If so, from who? .................................................
How? ........................................................................
For what purpose? ..................................................
4. Have you identified the factors that can lead to electoral violence?
Which? .....................................................................

What measures have you taken to prevent them? (Eg Call the Centre)  
..............................................................................

5. Have you identified cases of verbal electoral violence?
Which? .....................................................................
6. Have identified cases of physical electoral violence?
Which? .....................................................................
7. Have you identified cases of psychological electoral violence?
Which? .....................................................................
8. Have you identified cases of structural/institutional electoral violence? (legal framework)
Los cuales? Which? ..................................................
Which? .....................................................................
Which? .....................................................................

F. Remarks and Comments of Observers (to be filled after the polls)

1. Specific events deserving statements
2. Facts reported to the observers (mentioning the identity of the one who narrated the facts)
3. General atmosphere in the polling station
4. Overall assessment of the polling stations after the visit.
5. Assessment of non-violent and peaceful election

Possible recommendations to be made in the observation report

Signatures
18. Have the members of the polling station agreed on counting procedures and the results?
   Explain: ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................

C. CONSOLIDATION OF RESULTS

Have you noticed any of the following facts after closing the polling stations?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ballot stuffing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Substitution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Adding newsletter after opening the ballot box</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Disorderly procedure of counting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Participation in the counting procedure, unauthorized persons such as local officials, security personnel or unidentified persons.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Insufficient staff to count and control</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Excluding members of the polling station or observers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Arbitrary or unjustifiable invalidating ballots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Loss of ballots or ballot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Dishonest counting of ballots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Minutes of results filed out of the polling station</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Minutes of the results of the polling station filled in pencil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Refusal to submit an official copy of results to candidate representatives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Unsecured transport of voting material to the results consolidation center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Tampering or reversal of minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Influence, intimidation towards female participants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. OTHER REMARKS

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Specific events worthy of statements on the vote count</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Is the ballot sheet made by the President at the scheduled time? If not why?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Overall assessment of the count</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Possible recommendations to be made in the observation report

Poll Results

Town: ........................................
Number of witness unit: .................
Poll station number: .....................

Enrollment of the office: .................
Votes: ........................................
Invalid ballots: ...........................
Valid notes: ................................

Result of Candidates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of candidates</th>
<th>Total number of votes obtained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1st Observer  
Signatures  
2nd Observer