

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix-Travail-Patrie

SERVICES DU PREMIER MINISTRE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace-Work-Fatherland

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

**PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING OF THURSDAY 23
JANUARY 2020**

Yaounde, 23 January 2020

The **Prime Minister, Head of Government, His Excellency Joseph DION NGUTE**, today Thursday 23 January 2020 as from 10:00 a.m. chaired the Cabinet Meeting for the current month in the Prime Minister's Office, which was attended by Ministers of State, Ministers, Ministers-Delegate and Secretaries of State.

Three items featured on the agenda:

1. *Statement by the Minister of Finance on "rationalising contributions paid to international organisations";*
2. *Report from the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications on "the implementation of directives concerning the development of electronic communications in Cameroon";*
3. *Report from the Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development on "updating the industrialisation master plan".*

Invited to take the floor at the end of the introductory statement of the Head of Government, the Minister of Finance indicated at the outset that Cameroon's membership to International Organisations makes it possible to establish a range of relations with other States sharing the same strategic, political, economic and social development objectives. He then gave an overview of the situation, before presenting the rationalization measures recommended for the reorganization of the portfolio of international organizations to which Cameroon is a member.

In the overview, the Minister of Finance said that the volume of Cameroon's contributions to international organizations has increased considerably over the past decades and stands at CFAF 10 billion on average annually for 196 international organizations listed. The main constraints inherent in the payment of contributions due to international organizations relate in particular to the absence of data on bank domiciliation and the location of certain beneficiary organizations, as well as the late communication of information on changes in the amounts of statutory contributions by the legislative bodies of these organizations.

In order to control expenditure relating to the contributions paid by Cameroon to international bodies, the Minister of Finance said that a management mechanism comprising short- and medium-term measures has been put in place. The creation and operationalization in July 2019 of the permanent joint MINFI/MINREX platform in charge of monitoring and evaluating the State's contributions to international organizations is the backbone of this mechanism. In the long run, it is planned, among other things, to regularly update the list of international organisations to whose budgets Cameroon contributes, to draw up a three-year programme of State commitments in respect of its contributions to international bodies and to define a reference framework for analysing the sustainability of the State's financial commitments to international organisations.

Speaking on the second item on the agenda, the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications reported on the state of implementation of the directives given to her at the end of the Cabinet Meeting of 25 April 2019, concerning (i) the process of reorganizing the human resources of the Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART); (ii) the funding mechanism of the strategic plan for the development of the digital sector; (iii) payment of royalties due Cameroon Telecommunications (CAMTEL) and the implementation of a framework for the equitable management of the optical fibre.

The Minister indicated that the process of rehabilitating ART's human resources is on-going and, once completed, will make it possible to ensure a match between the profiles of the staff in service and the Agency's missions. The Agency's new

organizational chart will consider the functions related to the collection of fees due and the control of operators' activities.

With regard to the financing of the strategic plan for the development of the digital economy, the mechanism chosen aims to levy a percentage to be determined on all electronic transactions carried out by means of innovative technological platforms. In addition, Government, with the support of BEAC and partner organizations, is working to carry out the settlement and clearing of transactions generated by the unified platform. Eventually, the levies collected on the innovative platforms will be used to fund a Digital Development Fund.

As for the payment of royalties due to CAMTEL, a MINPOSTEL/ART/CAMTEL platform has been created in order to consolidate the different debts between the actors of the telecommunication sector and to propose appropriate settlement mechanisms. Finally, as regards the establishment of a framework for the equitable management of optical fibre, the real challenge is to ensure that operators in the sector do not carry out activities outside their concession perimeter, particularly with regard to the deployment of optical fibre. In order to provide a framework for the interventions of mobile telephone operators in this segment of activity, the Minister announced the establishment of a Production Unit in charge of the transport network.

Finally, the Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development reported on the progress of the process of updating the Industrialization Master Plan, the first version of which was drawn up in 2016. He recalled that the said Plan provides, in its first phase, for the supervision of the implementation of anchor projects and the reinforcement of the existing industrial units. The ongoing updating work is structured around the three national industrial sanctuaries which are agro-industry, energy and digital; the industrial pillars include cotton, mining, chemical-pharmaceutical, forestry and hydrocarbons. Strategic technical groups are at work and examine the contributions of public administrations, the private sector and civil society.

At the end of the discussions following these statements, the Prime Minister approved the measures recommended by the Minister of Finance to rationalize the contributions paid by Cameroon to international organizations. He asked him to work resolutely on their implementation and to submit a report to that effect at the end of the first half of 2020. The Head of Government instructed the Minister in charge of Telecommunications to finalize, in the short term, the ongoing initiatives relating to the establishment of a unified platform for the settlement and clearing of financial transactions. Finally, the Prime Minister instructed the Minister in charge of Industry to speed up and finalize, in the short term, the current update of the Industrialization Master Plan.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.-

Yaounde, 23 JAN 2020



FOUDA Séraphin Magloire
Secretary General,
Prime Minister's Office