

**The President of the Senate,
The Speaker of the National Assembly,
The President of the Constitutional Council,
The President of the Economic and Social Council,
Honourable Prime Minister, Head of Government,
Members of the Government,
The First President of the Supreme Court,
The Attorney General of the Supreme Court
Ambassadors and Representatives of Diplomatic Missions,
Representatives of Development Partners,
General Managers of Public Establishments and Public Enterprises,
Presidents of Regional Councils,
City Mayors,
Presidents of Professional Chambers, Associations and Organisations,
Representatives of Religious Communities,
Representatives of Political Parties,
Representatives of Civil Society Organisations,
Chairpersons of Anti-Corruption Units,
Representatives of the media,
Distinguished guests in your respective capacities,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We heartily welcome you to this auditorium at Mont Fébé Hotel in Yaoundé for the official presentation ceremony of *Cameroon's 2022 Anti-Corruption Status Report*.

We are holding this ceremony in compliance with Article 24, of the decree on the creation, organisation and functioning of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, which states that:

Paragraph 3: “The Commission shall submit to the President of the Republic an annual report on the anti-corruption drive.”

Paragraph 4: “Such annual report shall be published.”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Report officially presented to you today, the twelfth of its kind, contains a number of innovations compared with those that preceded it.

Among these innovations, we would point out that the Report is presented in a single document, in both English and French.

The cover page and format have also been modified to make it more attractive and easier to handle.

CONAC received a total of 129 external contributions for the Report, compared with 96 for the 2021 Report, representing an increase of 33 contributions.

This is the highest number of contributions ever recorded for an Annual Report.

The contributions came from:

- Supervisory Institutions;
- Regulatory Authorities;
- Courts;
- Ministries;
- Public Establishments and Public Enterprises;
- Regional and Local Authorities;
- Private companies;
- Civil Society Organisations, and
- Religious Communities.

We are delighted with the number and diversity of stakeholders and structures that have contributed to the preparation of this Report.

Specifically, the number of contributions from Ministries has risen from 27 in 2021 to 29 in 2022. In this respect, we are delighted that the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, which were not part of the previous Annual Report, were actively involved in the preparation of this edition.

However, we regret that the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Territorial Administration, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the Ministry of State Property, Survey and Land Tenure, and the Ministry of Secondary Education did not send any contribution for this Report, just like in 2021.

Cameroon's 2022 Anti-Corruption Status Report is structured in three main parts.

Parts I and II present activities carried out as part of the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, using the PrECIS tool, an acronym for Prevention, Education, Conditions, Incentives and Sanctions.

In Part I, the activities presented relate not only to Prevention, but also to Education, Conditions and Incentives.

Part II covers sanctions against corrupt practices.

Part III deals with cooperation in the fight against corruption.

Generally speaking, this Report highlights the many initiatives in public and private administrations to curb corruption.

Of particular interest is CONAC's experimentation of the concept of an "Anti-Corruption Clinic" in the city of Douala, during the 20th International Anti-Corruption Day celebration. This activity brought CONAC services closer to the people of the Littoral Region and enabled them to follow up their complaints more promptly.

Awareness-raising programmes in national languages were also broadcast on community radio stations throughout the country.

Many public administrations that did not previously have Anti-Corruption Units have set them up. Training has been given to members of these units, as well as to certain staff.

Furthermore, mechanisms such as suggestion boxes, postal addresses, e-mail addresses, emergency numbers, hotlines and WhatsApp numbers have been put in place to collect denunciations.

Information gathered has been used to draw up risk maps for a number of sectors.

Codes of Ethics and Good Conduct have been drafted and are being implemented in some Ministries, Establishments and Public Enterprises.

Some senior officials have taken steps to provide their staff with the necessary working environment and resources to enable them to perform their duties.

Employees who have distinguished themselves by their dedication to work and integrity have received various awards. We would like to mention a few examples:

- the General Delegation for National Security;
- the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries;
- the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- the Ministry of Finance;
- the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development;
- the Ministry of Public Health;
- the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family; - the Ministry of Social Affairs;
- the University of Bamenda
- the University of Maroua
- Yaoundé Gynaecological Obstetrics and Paediatrics Hospital;
- Douala General Hospital.

This momentum has not been lost in the Regions. In keeping with tradition, they have all evaluated their Annual Anti-Corruption Action Plans, which are also based on the PrECIS tool.

According to this evaluation, the overall level of implementation of the Regional Action Plans is still extremely low, with a national average of 37.85%.

However, the North Region ranks first, with an implementation rate of 53.03%, followed by the East (53.03%) and the Adamawa (43.72%).

The North West Region, with an implementation rate of 21.10%, ranks last.

As a result of the measures taken within the administrations, there has been a substantial increase in the volume of reports of acts of corruption.

In 2022, CONAC received 7,061 reports, compared with 6,705 in 2021, an increase of 356 reports.

A total of 2,603 of these were received via the toll-free number 1517, 3,472 via administrative mail, 565 by e-mail and 401 on WhatsApp.

Of the 3,472 denunciations received through administrative mail, misappropriation of public property emerges as the most prominent offence, with 1,135 occurrences, or 32.69% in relative terms.

By sector of activity, the largest number of complaints came from the State Property and Land Tenure sector, followed by the Territorial Administration sector, the Finance sector, the Education sector and the Public Contracts sector.

In the State Property and Land Tenure sector, most of the complaints relate to the misappropriation of funds allocated to compensate victims of major State projects.

In the Public Administration and Territorial Administration sector, the practices decried relate to the unjustified collection of salaries, forgery, corruption in administrative competitive examinations and the installation of a number of traditional chiefs who are not recognised by the local population.

Regarding the Finance sector, the most common complaints were the practice of "percentages" in payments and the misappropriation of funds for pensions and career-related arrears.

The mismanagement of the funds of Parents' Teachers' Associations (PTA) and bribery in enrolment are the most common complaints in the education sector.

In the Public Contracts sector, complaints were made mainly about irregularities in the contract award process.

Several of these denunciations resulted in investigations conducted by CONAC through Rapid Intervention Actions (RIAs) or Control Missions.

In 2022, 14 RIAs were carried out to establish cases of flagrant corruption or similar offences. 12 of the denunciations that led to these RIAs were confirmed to be true and the suspects were handed over to the judicial authorities for legal action.

Investigations focused on verifying allegations relating to:

- land grabbing in the city of Maroua;
- corruption and misappropriation of public funds at the Taxation Office of the Divisional Taxation Centre in Ngaoundéré;
- misappropriation of funds allocated for the payment of bonuses to staff in the central services of the Ministry of Public Health for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 financial years;
- misappropriation of public funds in connection with the non-execution of the contract to repair the ferry over River Nyong at Malombo;
- fraud and corruption in the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Douala;
- corruption, breach of trust and influence peddling involving the Mayor of Bibey Council.

Based on these investigations, the State of Cameroon incurred financial losses of **CFA 249,131,723 (two hundred and forty-nine million one hundred and thirty-one thousand seven hundred and twenty-three) francs.**

Cameroon's 2022 Anti-Corruption Status Report also presents a large number of sanctions against perpetrators of corrupt practices and unethical behaviours in some State administrations and courts.

Sanctions ranging from warnings to dismissals were imposed on 188 State employees by 22 State authorities.

Similarly, 77 private companies were excluded from public contracts for a period of two years by the Minister Delegate at the Presidency of the Republic in charge of Public Contracts, the Public Contracts Authority.

34 companies were suspended from all logging activities by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife.

In addition, 121 students from our universities and private higher education institutions were suspended for examination fraud.

Courts are also involved in cracking down on corruption and related offences. 17 courts (compared to 10 in 2021) forwarded copies of court judgments relating to corruption and similar offences to CONAC for this Report.

The Budget and Finance Disciplinary Board (CDBF), in accordance with its remit, handed down 18 decisions concerning current or former officials of:

- the Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC);
- the National Social Insurance Fund (CNPS);
- the Research Institute for Agricultural Development (IRAD);
- the Cameroon Shipyard and Industrial Engineering Company (CNIC);
- the Cameroon Real Estate Company (SIC);
- the Cardinal Paul Emile Léger National Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Handicapped (CNRPH);
- the Support Project for the Use of Fertilisers in the Cocoa/Coffee Sector (PAUEF2C).

Of the 18 persons implicated, 08 were found guilty and consequently received special fines totalling **CFA 6,800,000 (six million eight hundred thousand)**.

Some of the Authorising Officers whose guilt was established were debited a cumulative amount of **CFA 499,110,375 (four hundred and ninety-nine million one hundred and ten thousand three hundred and seventy-five)**.

The Special Criminal Court (TCS) handed down 14 final judgments in cases involving:

- Ministry of Finance (MINFI);
- Port Authority of Douala (PAD);
- Cameroon Water Utilities (CAMWATER);
- Cameroon Postal Services (CAMPOST);
- Cameroon Telecommunications (CAMPOST);
- the National Civil Engineering Equipment Pool (MATGENIE);
- Yokadouma Council.

Of the 32 people accused in these cases, 24 were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment.

The financial loss suffered by the State of Cameroon in these cases amounts to **CFA 3,875,176,820 (three billion eight hundred and seventy-five million one hundred and seventy-six thousand eight hundred and twenty) francs**.

In total, based on CONAC investigations, CDBF decisions and SCC decisions in 2022, the financial loss suffered by the State of Cameroon as a result of acts of corruption and related offences amounts to **CFA 4,623,418,918 (four billion six hundred and twenty-three million four hundred and eighteen thousand nine hundred and eighteen)**. This is a significant reduction compared to 2021, when it amounted to CFA 43,947,794,138 (forty-three billion, nine hundred and forty-seven million, seven hundred and ninety-four thousand, one hundred and thirty-eight) francs.

In terms of cooperation, the 2022 Report highlights the prevention activities carried out at national level by 7 member associations of the National Anti-Corruption Coalition (CNLCC) and the Islamic Council of Cameroon (CSIC).

At the international level, cooperation activities by CONAC included training, participation at 7 conferences and a benchmarking visit to Cameroon by the High Authority for the Fight against Corruption of the Republic of Congo.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic, in his message to the Nation on 31st December 2022, declared:

“I urge all Cameroonians, regardless of their social standing, to resolutely embark on this crusade that I have led over the years. Everyone, at his or her level, should act with integrity and safeguard our commonweal.

It is only through working collectively, decisively and resolutely that we will be able to overcome the corruption persisting in our society.”

Consistent with this declaration, we are pleased to note that one of the major features of Cameroon's 2022 Anti-Corruption Status Report is the increase in the number of stakeholders involved in the anti-corruption drive. This is evident in the rise in the volume of denunciations, the multiplication of Anti-Corruption Units in public administrations and the creation of Integrity Clubs in schools and universities.

We hope that this trend will continue in the years ahead.

We would like to repeat our call to Regional and Local Authorities, whose commitment to the fight against corruption has so far been timid.

Given that the fight against corruption is a specific area of competence, it is also expected that all those involved should be endowed with the necessary ethical and technical capacities.

We seize this opportunity to mention that our country has a National Anti-Corruption Strategy, which has been in place since 2011. This means that the actions to be taken in this area must be in line with the methodological framework prescribed by this Strategy.

On this point, we believe that if the PrECIS tool, which has been endorsed nationwide, is implemented in all its forms, there is no doubt that it will provide a solution to the problem of corruption in our society.

Every senior administrative official should therefore embrace and implement it effectively.

In this respect, we welcome the setting up of a permanent consultation platform between CONAC and Anti-Corruption Units. Many of the results achieved in 2022 are a result of the discussions that took place within this framework. One example is the workshop held in Ebolowa from the 23rd to the 25th of November, 2022, after the publication of ***Cameroon's 2021 Anti-Corruption Status Report***.

Based on the observations made in this Report, these workshops will continue.

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the summary of ***Cameroon's 2022 Anti-Corruption Status Report*** and the lessons learned from it.

We would like to thank all those who, in their different ways, have contributed to its preparation. Our special thanks go to the Chairpersons and Members of Anti-Corruption Units, heads of Courts, Private Enterprises and Civil Society Organisations who submitted their contributions.

Our gratitude also goes to members of the Editorial, Proofreading and Translation Committees of Annual Anti-Corruption Status Reports in Cameroon, as well as to all those who participated in the organisation of this ceremony.

To all of you present here today, we thank you for having responded favourably to CONAC's invitation.

We wish you a safe return to your respective administrations.

Thank you for your kind attention!