

**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,
The Prime Minister, Head of Government,
The First President of the Supreme Court,
The Attorney General of the Supreme Court,
Members of Government,
Ambassadors and Representatives of Diplomatic Missions,
Representatives of Partners in Development,
Directors General and General Managers of Public Establishments
and Enterprises,
Presidents of Regional Councils,
City Mayors,
Presidents of Professional Chambers, Orders and Organisations,
Representatives of Religious Communities,
Representatives of Political Parties,
Representatives of Civil Society Organisations,
Chairpersons of Anti-Corruption Units,
Representatives of Media Organs,
Distinguished invitees in your various ranks,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

We are honoured to address you today on this occasion to officially present Cameroon's 2024 Anti-Corruption Status Report.

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to this hall at the Yaounde Conference Centre and thank you for accepting the invitation from the National Anti-Corruption Commission.

Your presence at this ceremony shows your commitment to working towards eradicating the scourge of corruption from our society.

Ladies and gentlemen, this official presentation of the Report on the State of the Anti-Corruption Drive in Cameroon is hinged on article 24, paragraphs 3 and 4 of Decree No. 2006/088 of 11 March 2006 relating to the setting up, organisation and functioning of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, which stipulates that:

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

“Such annual report shall be published.”

Cameroon's 2024 Anti-Corruption Status Report, which is the fourteenth edition since 2012. It is a compilation of 105 contributions forwarded to CONAC by:

- 02 Control Institutions;
- 03 Regulatory bodies;
- 14 Courts;
- 31 Ministries;
- 44 Public Establishments and Public Enterprises;
- 06 Regional and Local Authorities;
- 04 Civil Society Organisations; and
- 01 Private sector organisation.

CONAC received 84 contributions for the 2023 Report. We are therefore delighted to have recorded an increase of 21 contributions. This increase is largely because of the number of contributions from public establishments and enterprises, which rose from 27 to 44.

Similarly, two Ministries and similar bodies that had not submitted their anti-corruption activity reports in 2023 did so in 2024. These were the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the General Delegation for National Security.

However, we deplore the fact that some Ministries did not respond to our letters requesting their contributions. These include the Ministry of Territorial Administration, the Ministry of Communication, the Ministry of Water and Energy, the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development, and the Ministry of Transport.

This situation, which suggests refusal to cooperate, is a cause for particular concern given that the Ministry of Territorial Administration, the Ministry of Communication, and the Ministry of Water and Energy had already been noted for their absence in the 2023 Report.

Religious authorities, notably the National Episcopal Council of Cameroon, the Council of Protestant Churches of Cameroon and the Islamic High Council of Cameroon, are in the same situation. These institutions are nonetheless considered pillars of integrity in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, given their importance in the moral restoration of our society, which is plagued by all sorts of abuses.

It should also be noted that CONAC did not receive the activity report of the National Financial Investigation Agency on anti-money laundering, as has been the tradition for several years.

With regard to other entities, the number of contributions submitted to CONAC remained constant compared to the 2023 Report.

We are therefore pleased that the Attorney General of the Special Criminal Court once again forwarded us a report on the restitution of the corpus delicti in connection with proceedings pending before that court, and that the Director General of the Cameroon Debt Recovery Company once again forwarded us a report on the situation of recovery in respect of the financial penalties imposed in favour of the State of Cameroon.

Nevertheless, we continue to decry the fact that Regional and Local Authorities, the Civil Society and Private Sector are not sufficiently represented in this Report which showcases the efforts made in all sectors of activity to eradicate corruption in our country.

To overcome this, CONAC intends to organise workshops for Municipal and Regional Councillors, in collaboration with the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development, to raise awareness on the fight against corruption.

With regard to the Civil Society and Private Sector, Article 13 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption requires each State Party to take appropriate measures *“to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption”*.

To meet this requirement, a National Anti-Corruption Coalition was set up in CONAC, to bring together civil society organisations involved in the fight against corruption. Unfortunately, some of its members got a bit out of hand, so we had to put it on hold. A committee has been set up to revive it in the coming days, under the leadership of the Vice-Chairman.

We also seize this opportunity to reiterate CONAC's commitment to providing free support to organisations wishing to set up Anti-Corruption Units, including providing them with the necessary documentation and training.

On the basis of the contributions received, the 2024 Report has been presented in three main parts, inspired by the PrECIS tool of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. As such,

- Part One focuses on activities of prevention;
- Part Two deals with sanctions on corrupt practices;
- Part Three concerns recovery of proceeds of corruption and institutional cooperation.

Like the two previous editions, this Report is a single document in both French and English.

With regard to prevention, Cameroon's 2024 Anti-Corruption Status Report reveals that many government administrations implemented several strategies to facilitate the denunciation of acts of corruption, most notably by setting up toll-free numbers. Examples include:

- the General Delegation for National Security (1500);
- the Secretariat of State for Defence in charge of the Gendarmerie (1501);
- Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (1507);
- Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (1531);
- Ministry of State Property, Survey and Land Tenure (1527);
- University of Yaounde I (1423).

These initiatives promote the implementation of the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration, which recommends, in Article 6, that *“Public Service shall establish effective communication systems and processes to inform the public about service delivery, to enhance access to information by users, as well as to receive their feedback and inputs”*.

Thanks to these measures, which should be encouraged, the number of reports of corrupt practices has continued to increase. For example, CONAC received a total of 10,520 denunciations in 2024, compared to **7,548 in 2023**, representing an increase of **2,972** denunciations in absolute terms and **39.37%** in relative terms. A total of **2,182** of these reports were received through administrative mail, **7,158** via the hotline (1517), **314** by email (info@conac.cm), and **866** via WhatsApp (658262682).

From the analysis of these denunciations, especially those received on CONAC's toll-free number, it is clear that the following illegal practices are becoming rampant within our Administrations, despite the measures taken to combat them:

- charges for services that are supposed to be free, or charges beyond what is prescribed by regulations;

- abuse of power, resulting in the unjustified retention of files, undue delays in their treatment or whimsical controls;
- influence peddling, leading to unfair decisions that cause frustration and tension;
- misappropriation of public property.

These practices are most commonly reported in Councils, Sub-Divisional Offices, Police Stations, Gendarmerie Brigades, Road Checkpoints, Educational Institutions, Health Facilities, and Control Brigades of the Ministry of Trade.

The treatment of complaints lodged with CONAC led to 44 Rapid Intervention Actions (RIAs), two Anti-Corruption Clinics and ten in-depth investigations conducted by Members of the Coordination Committee.

Out of the 44 denunciations that led to the deployment of RIAs in the field, 36 were found to be substantiated and the suspects were referred to Court for legal actions.

The Anti-Corruption Clinics, organised in Ebolowa and Garoua, resulted in the arrest of 11 persons caught red-handed in acts of corruption.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the Delegate the General for National Security and the Secretary of State to the Minister Delegate at the Presidency of the Republic in charge of the National Gendarmerie, for their support during these Anti-Corruption Clinics and Rapid Intervention Actions. This support is manifested in the assignment of Judicial Police Officers to CONAC to assist in the establishment of cases of flagrante delicto.

In-depth investigations were carried out on the payment of legal bonuses at the Bamenda General Treasury and on allegations of:

- misappropriation of property belonging to the Union of Baptist Churches of Cameroon;
- misappropriation of public property at the University Institute of Technology, University of Douala;
- misappropriation of public property at Mbe Council;
- corruption and misappropriation of public property at Tiko Council;
- corruption, misappropriation of public property, forgery and use at Messok Council;
- violation of regulations in the exploitation of the Bidou stone quarry in Lokoundje Sub-Division;

- closure of and failure to redeploy teachers appointed and posted to the Technical, Industrial and Commercial Colleges of Efogo and Nsenang-Edou in Nyong and Mfoumou Division;
- extortion of funds from employees of a security company by its management;
- corruption involving officials at the Pitoa Weighing Station;
- abuse of office, favouritism and misappropriation of public property by the Regional Delegate of Post and Telecommunications of the North, and
- extortion of funds from Principals and Presidents of Parent Teacher Associations in Benoue Division.

These investigations revealed that the State of Cameroon and other public and private entities suffered financial losses amounting to **1,448,735,311 (one billion four hundred and forty-eight million seven hundred and thirty-five thousand three hundred and eleven) CFA francs**.

The 2024 Report also highlights the significant involvement of administrations and courts in combating corruption. This is reflected in an increase in the number of administrations that have imposed sanctions on perpetrators of acts of corruption or unethical and unprofessional conduct. The number of administrations thus rose from 24 in 2023 to 31 in 2024.

In this regard, 298 public servants were issued sanctions ranging from warnings to dismissal for various offences, with absenteeism ranking high among the most prominent, like in 2023. Fourteen of these officials were fined a total of **34,615,839 (thirty-four million six hundred and fifteen thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine) CFA francs**.

227 students caught cheating were temporarily suspended from taking exams by the Minister of Secondary Education and the Minister of Higher Education.

216 companies were excluded from public procurement for abandoning projects or failing to supply goods by the Minister of Public Contracts, Public Contracts Authority.

14 logging companies were suspended from their activities for non-compliance with their respective specifications by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife.

14 Courts issued rulings in cases relating to corruption and related offences. This number remained constant compared to 2023.

It should be noted that the Budget and Finance Disciplinary Board (CDBF) issued two decisions, the first concerning a former Chairperson of the

Permanent Commission for Mediation and Control of Collective Management Organisations and Related Rights to Copyright, and the second concerning a former Director of the Cameroon Real Estate Company (SIC).

The two officials implicated were found guilty of several management faults, with special fine of **2,000,000 (two million) CFA francs** each and order to pay a total of **1,755,385,695 (one billion seven hundred and fifty-five million three hundred and eighty-five thousand six hundred and ninety-five) CFA francs**, representing the financial loss suffered by the State of Cameroon in these cases.

The Special Criminal Court, on its part, rendered 11 final judgments in cases relating to the misappropriation of public property concerning:

- Ministry of State Property, Survey and Land Tenure;
- Ministry of Finance;
- Ministry of Public Works;
- National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC);
- Autonomous Sinking Fund (CAA);
- Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC);
- Cameroon Water Utilities (CAMWATER);
- Cameroon Telecommunications (CAMTEL);
- Cotton Development Corporation (SODECOTON);
- University of Yaounde II.

Out of the 47 persons accused in these cases, 16 were found guilty and sentenced to prison terms ranging from one year with suspended sentence for three years, to life imprisonment. The financial loss incurred by the State of Cameroon in these cases amounts to **857,685,705 (eight hundred and fifty-seven million, six hundred and eighty-five thousand, seven hundred and five) CFA francs**.

The Specialised Section of the Supreme Court, on its part, passed seven judgments following appeals to quash rulings by the Special Criminal Court, relating to the misappropriation of public funds. After examining these appeals, which were deemed admissible in form, five were dismissed on the merits. With regard to the other two, the Court quashed the judgment rendered by the Special Criminal Court and noted the stay of proceedings due to the death of the plaintiff in the appeal.

The total financial loss incurred by the State of Cameroon after investigations by CONAC, decisions by the CDBF, and rulings by the SCC is estimated at **4,061,806,711 (four billion sixty-one million eight hundred-six**

thousand seven hundred-eleven) CFA francs in 2024. In 2023, the amount was 114,035,922,502 (one hundred and fourteen billion thirty-five million nine hundred and twenty-two thousand five hundred and two) CFA francs, representing a decrease of 109,974,115,791 (one hundred and nine billion, nine hundred and seventy-four million, one hundred and fifteen thousand, seven hundred and ninety-one) CFA francs.

Cameroon's 2024 Anti-Corruption Status Report also reveals that the Special Criminal Court and the Cameroon Debt Recovery Company continued to recover assets lost by the State as a result of corruption.

As a result, the Special Criminal Court recorded the restitution of the corpus delicti in 12 proceedings, totalling **334,275,262 (three hundred and thirty-four million, two hundred and seventy-five thousand, two hundred and sixty-two) CFA francs**.

Meanwhile, the Cameroon Debt Recovery Company collected a total of **5,293,068,849 (five billion two hundred ninety-three million sixty-eight thousand eight hundred forty-nine) CFA francs**. These recoveries follow 19 decisions handed down by the Special Criminal Court and the Supreme Court.

The total amount recovered by these two institutions in 2024 is **8,496,243,416 (eight billion four hundred ninety-six million two hundred forty-three thousand four hundred and sixteen) CFA francs**.

As regards institutional cooperation, the 2024 Report only presents the activities of CONAC. This is also regrettable, considering the provisions of Articles 38 and 39 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption relating to information sharing assistance during investigations.

At national level, CONAC signed 24 partnership agreements with some natural and legal persons and provided or received training for its staff. The first partnership agreement was concluded with the Ministry for Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), to contribute to the fight against corruption in the sub-sectors of women and the family, through capacity-building activities and awareness-raising campaigns. To step up the anti-corruption drive in the areas of education, awareness-raising and communication, CONAC signed a partnership agreement with 22 Community Radio Stations for the broadcast of anti-corruption messages and micro-programmes in local languages. Similarly, CONAC contacted three music artists to request permission to use their songs over a period of three years to raise public awareness on corruption issues.

With regard to training, CONAC offered training to several groups of people, either at its own initiative or at their request. More than 550 persons,

including heads of anti-corruption units in public and semi-public institutions, two batches of trainees from the Yaounde Military College, stakeholders in the public procurement system, auditors from the Accounts Section of the National School of Administration and Magistracy, and members of Integrity Clubs, benefited from capacity-building in the fight against corruption.

CONAC staff also benefited from training provided by national partners, including the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Finance, the National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC), and ENAM.

At the international level, a CONAC delegation participated in the 14th annual conference and General Assembly of the Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies of Commonwealth African Countries in Accra, Ghana. After this meeting, Cameroon was chosen to host the 16th Conference in 2026.

As part of the Association's activities, twelve senior staff members received training from the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre in Gaborone, Botswana. A CONAC team also went to Freetown, Sierra Leone, to learn about the non-judicial techniques for recovering assets derived from corruption, which the Anti-Corruption Commission of that country has already tried out.

As part of the implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption by the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption, CONAC took part in a workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the setting up of a Pan-African Forum of Debt Recovery Experts, as well as in the 8th African Dialogue on the Fight against Corruption, in Arusha, Tanzania.

Partnerships with the International Police Organisation (INTERPOL), the International Budget Partnership (IBP) in Senegal, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have also helped to enhance the capacities of CONAC officials.

At the international level, cooperation focused on training courses for some staff members, study visits and participation in conferences. The Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre in Botswana made a commendable contribution to enhancing the capacity of CONAC staff. CONAC also gained valuable insights from its peers during a study visit to Freetown, Sierra Leone. The aim of this visit was to gather information on the non-judicial recovery techniques employed by the Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone for the recovery of stolen property and assets, which avoids the need for lengthy and cumbersome legal procedures.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished invitees,

This is Cameroon's 2024 Anti-Corruption Status Report presented to you.

We would like you to read it and share it with others.

We thank all those who, from far or near, contributed to its elaboration. Specifically, we would like to thank Ministers, Rectors and Vice-Chancellors of Universities, Director Generals and General Managers of Public Establishments and Enterprises, Mayors, Managements of Control Institutions, Officials of Court, Civil Society Organisations and the Private Sector, as well as Chairpersons and Members of Anti-Corruption Units, who sent in their contributions.

We extend gratitude to members of the Drafting, Proofreading and Translation Committees of Cameroon's Annual Anti-Corruption Status Reports, as well as to all those who participated in organising this ceremony.

We also appreciate the media and communication outlets that objectively report on CONAC's activities.

To all of you present here today, we thank you for your positive response to CONAC's invitation to this ceremony.

We wish you safe journey back to your respective Administrations.

Long live the fight against corruption spearheaded by His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic, Head of State!

Long live Cameroon.

Thank you for your time!