

DYNAMIQUE CITOYENNE

Network for the independent follow-up of public policies and cooperation strategies

CHARTER

PREAMBLE

The 90s were decisive years for African societies in general and Cameroonian societies in particular. That period of socio-economic transformation was characterized by a consensus on a certain number of issues including that concerning democratic and decentralized governance, and especially the importance of the role of civil society in the development, implementation and monitoring/evaluation of development strategies.

In Cameroon, the clarification of the institutional framework for the expression of civil society organizations (CSOs) was the starting point of a series of initiatives and multifaceted actions of these organizations whose main focus turned out to be debt relief processes (Highly indebted Poor Countries Initiative, Growth and Employment Strategic Paper, etc.).

However, CSOs had a bitter assessment of their participation in joint dialogue and consultation frameworks set up by the government - Consultative Committee for Monitoring the Management of HIPC Funds (CCMM-HIPC) and the Technical Committee for Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of the GESP (TCME/GESP). In fact, the government gives little credit to the proposals and questions of representatives of civil society. This is due, on the one hand, to a lack of political will and on the other hand, to the insufficient harmonization of the points of view of fragmented CSOs.

At the same time, the management of public affairs remains characterized by opacity favoring the system of impunity. Thus, the dysfunctions and abuses at the origin of the situation that Cameroon is currently experiencing are not the subject of any citizen debate.

Likewise, cooperation agreements and international aid conditionalities call on civil society to get involved in monitoring their implementation, which fundamentally impacts the country's development. Some of these conditionalities, such as privatizations, are issues which fall under the sovereignty of the Cameroonian people and which underlie the social project that Cameroonians want to build.

Against this backdrop, civil society organizations set up a restricted thematic working group in January 2005 in order to structure participation and enrich the contribution of civil society to the process of development, implementation and monitoring/evaluation of the GESP.

That group, which would subsequently become the group of founding members of Dynamique Citoyenne, was made up of the following CSOs: ACIC, ASSOAL, BASC CARITAS, CAMNAFAW, CANADEL, CED, CEPKA, CGT LIBERTES,

CIPCRE, CLUB-UA CAMEROUN, COSADER, CSP, FESADE, FOSCAM, INADES TRAINING, SEP, SNAEF, SNJP.

The reflection within that group focused on the need: (i) to establish an independent monitoring mechanism for the GESP; (ii) to mobilize civil society, beyond this restricted group, on the monitoring of public policies in general.

These objectives were achieved during the Ombé II workshop which took place on July 6, 7 and 8, 2005 and which brought together around a hundred participants from different families of civil society actors (NGOs and associations, trade-unions, faith-based organizations) from the ten regions of Cameroon. They merged into a national network for the independent monitoring of public policies and cooperation strategies, subsequently called “Dynamique Citoyenne” abbreviated DC.

They agreed to place at the center of their concerns the promotion of more humane and fairer living conditions, particularly for the most disadvantaged sections of the population, and respect for human rights. They are convinced that this cannot be achieved without social mobilization and without the effective participation of populations in the execution of the country's economic, social and cultural policies. Likewise, populations must exercise citizen control of public action in order to bring the State to respect the social contract which binds it to citizens.

These civil society organizations officially launched the Dynamique Citoyenne network during the mobilization against impunity organized on December 9 and 10, 2005 in Yaounde and decided to adopt this Charter for their structuring and functioning.

TITLE I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I: CREATION, NAME, DURATION AND HEADQUARTERS

Article 1: Creation and Naming

A national network has been set up between civil society organizations in Cameroon (NGOs and associations, trade-unions, faith-based organizations) for the independent monitoring of public policies and cooperation strategies, called “Dynamique Citoyenne” abbreviated DC.

Article 2: Duration and headquarters

Dynamique Citoyenne is created for an unlimited period. Its headquarters is in Yaounde.

TITLE II: VISION, MISSION, PURPOSE, VALUES, PRINCIPLES, OBJECTIVES

CHAPTER II: VISION, MISSION, PURPOSE, VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Article 3: Vision

Dynamique Citoyenne, independent network for the follow-up of public policies and cooperation strategies, dreams of a Cameroon where citizens are aware of their rights and duties and capable of mobilizing to get public authorities to respect the social contract in order to promote more humane and fairer living conditions.

Article 4: Mission

Dynamique Citoyenne's mission is to promote good governance through the independent monitoring of public policies and cooperation strategies.

Article 5: Purpose

The purpose of Dynamique Citoyenne is to constitute a real citizen counter-power in order to entrench democracy and citizen participation in Cameroon.

Article 6: Values and principles

The values that underpin the action of Dynamique Citoyenne are:

- ✓ Human rights and particularly the right to effective participation in common affairs;
- ✓ Participatory democracy;
- ✓ Equity;
- ✓ Social justice;
- ✓ Honesty;
- ✓ Activism.

The principles underlying the action of Dynamique citoyenne are:

- ✓ The defense and promotion of the interests of voiceless populations in the debate on public policies;
- ✓ Citizen control of public action, and more specifically of the management of public resources at the local, regional, national and international levels;

- ✓ The independence of the network from other political and social bodies, especially public authorities and political groups;
- ✓ Collective support and collegiality in decision-making;
- ✓ Non-violence ;
- ✓ Transparency and circulation of information;
- ✓ Mandate and representation;
- ✓ Accountability;
- ✓ Visibility of members in network activities.

CHAPTER III: OBJECTIVES

Article 7: Overall objective

The overall objective of Dynamique Citoyenne is to contribute to the improvement of people's living conditions, to their effective involvement in the management of public affairs and to the promotion of human rights.

Article 8: Specific objectives

The specific objectives set by Dynamique Citoyenne include the following:

- ✓ Promote good governance through the independent monitoring of public policies and cooperation strategies by citizens;
- ✓ Raise citizen awareness;
- ✓ Promote social mobilization;
- ✓ Ensure respect for human rights and public freedoms.

CHAPTER IV: MODE OF ACTION

Article 9: In order to achieve their objectives, member CSOs of Dynamique Citoyenne adopt the following modes of action:

- ✓ Advocacy/lobbying;
- ✓ Public demonstrations, sit-ins;
- ✓ Public debates;
- ✓ alternative forums;
- ✓ Independent investigations;
- ✓ Capacity building;

- ✓ Alternative reports;
- ✓ Conferences

TITLE III: QUALITY, ADMISSION, RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

CHAPTER V: QUALITY OF MEMBER AND CATEGORIES OF MEMBERS

Article 10: Membership

Dynamique Citoyenne is open to any non-profit civil society organization (CSO) under Cameroonian law, which adheres to this Charter.

Article 11: Member category

Dynamique Citoyenne has two categories of members: full members and associate members.

a) **Full members:** they include the founding members and the associate members.

✚The founding members

These are the CSOs cited in the preamble, i.e. members of the Working Group which prepared the foundations of Cameroonian civil society meeting of Ombé II, in July 2005, on the participatory monitoring of the GESP (first generation) and whose mandate was to finalize the establishment of a national network for independent monitoring of public policies and cooperation strategies in Cameroon.

✚Adherent members

Any organization that meets the following conditions is a member of Dynamique Citoyenne:

- ✓ Be a CSO under Cameroonian law;
- ✓ Have a legal existence (declaration receipt) dating back at least 5 years;
- ✓ Have an identifiable headquarters in a region;
- ✓ Have at least 05 active members (for public demonstrations);
- ✓ Justify annual activity reports (present the last two narrative and financial reports), demonstrating the activism of the organization in the areas of intervention of Dynamique Citoyenne;
- ✓ Intervene in at least one of the thematics that contribute to the purpose of Dynamique Citoyenne;
- ✓ Promote the values and principles of DC;

- ✓ Share the vision and missions of the network.

b) Associate members

Associate members include thematic networks and/or platforms composed of civil society organizations with which Dynamique Citoyenne has established, on a national or regional level, written partnership agreements.

CHAPTER VI: PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION AND RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT

Article 12: The procedure for admitting members includes two stages: provisional admission and final admission.

a) Provisional admission

The provisional admission procedure is as follows: the organization applying for membership to Dynamique Citoyenne sends a file to the Regional Coordination Unit under its jurisdiction. The latter acknowledges receipt of the file and examines it with regard to the values and principles set in this Charter. The Regional Coordination Unit thereafter notifies its decision to the applicant organization and informs the Management Committee. Once admitted as a provisional member, the organization must pay membership fees and dues. Membership fees are non-renewable.

The application file for admission to Dynamique Citoyenne is made up as follows: a written application addressed to the Regional Coordination Unit; a photocopy of the official recognition document of the organization (Associations, Unions, NGOs, Religious Confessions); a location plan of the organization's headquarters; the last two annual reports (activity and financial) and the report of the General Assembly's last meeting.

b) Final admission

The final admission of a member is enacted by the National Council of the network.

Article 13: Renewal of commitment

Each year the National Council validates the renewal of membership and commitment of members.

This renewal is conditioned by:

- ✓ The Payment of contributions for the current year;

- ✓ The written will of the member;
- ✓ The presentation of the activity and financial reports for the current year.

CHAPTER VII: RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Article 14: Members of Dynamique Citoyenne all benefit from the same rights and are subject to the same duties.

SECTION I: RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Article 15: Each member organization of Dynamique Citoyenne:

- ✓ Maintains its identity and sovereignty in compliance with this Charter;
- ✓ Is a voter and is eligible according to the principle of one organization, one vote;
- ✓ Has the right: (i) to the same level of information; (ii) the civil protection of the network within the framework of the acts for which it has a mandate; (iii) sponsorship of the network; (iv) to represent Dynamique Citoyenne when mandated to do so, to benefit from funding available, at a voluntary service rate; (v) to participate in decision-making under the conditions set out in this Charter; (vi) to have access to all the free documents and services of the network.

SECTION II: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Article 16: Each member organization has the obligation to:

- ✓ Respect this Charter and all decisions taken by Dynamique Citoyenne governing bodies;
- ✓ Contribute to the financing of the network, through the payment of its monthly contribution and the payment of 20% of the capital gains resulting from the implementation of projects carried out under the umbrella of Dynamique Citoyenne;
- ✓ Participate in network meetings and activities;
- ✓ Encourage community mobilization among its members and supporters during major network events.

CHAPTER VIII: DISCIPLINE AND LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

Article 17: Discipline

- a) Any member organization whose actions are likely to either put the life and/or interests of the network in danger, or to hinder its action, or to harm its

reputation, is brought before the Management Committee of Dynamique Citoyenne.

b) The exclusion decision is ratified or invalidated by the National Council.

Article 18: Loss of membership

- a) Membership is lost by resignation, exclusion, dissolution of the member organization or non-renewal of the annual commitment;
- b) Loss of membership does not entitle the member concerned to any compensation for possible damages. The latter is however required to return any DC property in his possession.
- c) Membership is finally lost with the dissolution of Dynamique Citoyenne.

TITLE IV: ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

CHAPTER VIII: ORGANIZATION

Article 19: Dynamique Citoyenne is made-up of two decision-making bodies and three executive bodies.

a) Decision-making bodies

These include the National Council and the Regional Coordination Units

b) Executive bodies

These include the Management Committee, the Regional Directories and the National Executive Secretariat.

CHAPTER IX: COMPOSITION, ATTRIBUTIONS AND FUNCTIONING

SECTION I: DECISION-MAKING BODIES

I- THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

The National Council is the supreme deliberative and decision-making body of Dynamique Citoyenne.

Article 20: Composition

The National Council is made-up of delegates duly mandated by the Regional and/or Divisional Coordination Units in proportion to the number of active members per region. This proportion is defined by the previous National Council meeting.

Article 21: Powers

The responsibilities of the National Council include:

- ✓ Define the strategic orientations of the network;
- ✓ Examine and validate activity and financial reports;
- ✓ Examine and ratify or invalidate the decisions of the Management Committee;
- ✓ Examine and validate the membership of new members;
- ✓ Examine and validate the three-year strategic plan;
- ✓ Take a final decision on the admission and/or exclusion of a member;
- ✓ Amend the Charter;
- ✓ Elect the members of the Management Committee.

Article 22: Functioning

The National Council for Dynamique Citoyenne sits in ordinary session or in extraordinary session.

I.1 THE ORDINARY SESSION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Article 23: Convening

- a) The ordinary session of the National Council is convened each year by the Management Committee at least twenty-one (21) days before the date scheduled for its holding. Its work is chaired by a session bureau elected in plenary and composed of a President, a Vice-President and two (02) Rapporteurs appointed from among the five (05) members of the Management Committee, and two scrutineers. The National Executive Secretariat backs up the session bureau in the drafting of the session report.
- b) The convocation indicates the items on the agenda, the date, time and place. Convocations are sent to members through all information and public broadcasting channels.
- c) All documentation and information necessary for the preparation of the meeting must be made available to participants at least fourteen (14) days before the said Council is held.

Article 24: Quorum

A quorum of attendance equal to a simple majority of delegates of the National Council and a simple majority of voters is required for decision-making.

Article 25: Proxy

Proxies are admitted and a member cannot hold more than one proxy.

I.2 THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Article 26: Convening

- a) The National Council may sit in extraordinary session on the initiative of the Management Committee or at the request of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the National Council having the right to vote.
- b) The duration of this meeting cannot exceed two days. Discussions can only relate to the agenda set by the Management Committee or to the point raised by 2/3 of the members who requested the convening of the extraordinary National Council.
- c) The extraordinary session of the National Council is convened at least fourteen (14) days before the date scheduled for its holding.
- d) The convocation indicates the only item on the agenda, the date, time and place. Convocations are sent to members 14 days before the date of the meeting through all information and public broadcasting channels.
- e) All documentation and information necessary for the preparation of the meeting must be made available to participants at least seven (07) days before the said Council is held.
- f) The work of the extraordinary session of the National Council is chaired by a session bureau elected in plenary composed of a President and two Rapporteurs.

In case of the holding of an extraordinary National Council, the transport and accommodation fees of the delegates are under the responsibility of the Management Committee.

Article 27: Quorum

- a) At the first convening, a quorum of presence equal to a simple majority of the statutory members of the National Council and a majority of two thirds of the members present for decision-making is required.
- b) If the required quorum is not reached, the session is adjourned to the fortnight. In this case, the meeting is validly held regardless of the number of members present or represented. The majority rules in decision-making remain unchanged.

Article 28: Proxy

Proxies are admitted and a member cannot hold more than one proxy.

Article 29: Any resolution adopted by the National Council, in violation of the provisions of this Charter, is null and void.

II- REGIONAL COORDINATION UNITS

Article 30: Regional Coordination Units are the decision-making bodies at the regional level. They ensure *mutatis mutandis* at the regional level the same attributions devolved to the National Council.

Regional Coordination Units include Regional Directories.

SECTION II: EXECUTIVE BODIES

I- THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It is the body that orientates and controls the implementation, at the national level, of decisions taken by the National Council. It meets once every six months and when need arises.

Article 32: Composition

- a) The Management Committee is made-up of five (05) members elected by the National Council including, as far as possible, two representatives of NGOs and Associations, two for Trade Unions and one for faith-based organizations.
- b) The Management Committee is made up of:
 - ✓ A National President
 - ✓ A 1st National Vice-President
 - ✓ A 2nd National Vice-President
 - ✓ Two (02) Advisors

Article 33: Eligibility criteria for the Management Committee

The eligibility criteria for the Management Committee are as follows:

- ✓ Be from an organization with at least 3 years of experience within the network;
- ✓ Be from an organization active in the field (see activity report);
- ✓ Be up to date with the contributions;
- ✓ Be of good moral integrity;
- ✓ Be available.

Article 34: Powers

Generally speaking, the Management Committee's mission is to ensure the legal and political representation of the network, and to serve as an interface between the National Executive Secretariat, the Regional Coordination Units, the public administration and technical and financial partners.

The Management Committee ensures compliance with the vision, mission, values and principles of Dynamique Citoyenne at all levels, manages conflicts, investigates cases of indiscipline and serious misconduct.

It contributes to defining and monitoring the implementation of the network's communication strategy.

It controls the management of the National Executive Secretariat and Regional Coordination Units quarterly, and checks the accounting documents and the bank account of Dynamique Citoyenne quarterly.

Article 36: Renewal of the Management Committee

The renewal of the members of the Management Committee is done every three years by the National Council. The mandate is three years, renewable once.

II. THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Article 37: Powers

The National President of the Management Committee represents Dynamique Citoyenne in all acts of civil life (public relations) and in justice; supervises the activities of the National Executive Secretariat, ensures compliance with both the Network Charter and the laws and regulations of the Republic, orders the network budget (as such, all checks must bear his signature), convenes meetings of the National Council and the Management Committee, orders the audits of the accounts of Dynamique Citoyenne.

He is the holder of the social signature of Dynamique Citoyenne.

Any official communication shall be sent to him for signature. He may delegate his power to the National Executive Secretary for communications falling within his area of competence.

He coordinates the recruitment of staff within the network, signs all contracts and documents involving the responsibility of Dynamique Citoyenne, is the Managing Editor of Dynamique Citoyenne.

Section 38: Although the National President of the Management Committee has specific responsibilities, decisions are taken collectively within the Committee.

Article 39: In case the President of the Management Committee is unable to act, or in case of a vacancy in the Presidency, the first Vice-President acts as interim president until the following National Council is held.

III. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The National Executive Secretariat is the technical body of the network.

Article 40: Composition

The National Executive Secretariat is made-up of paid staff recruited by the Management Committee and through a call for applications. The selection is made by an external consultant appointed by the Management Committee. Priority must be given to candidates from Dynamique Citoyenne member organizations.

The National Executive Secretariat is hosted at the network's headquarters.

Article 41: Responsibilities of the National Executive Secretariat (NES)

The National Executive Secretariat:

- ✓ Ensures the implementation of network activities under the supervision of the Management Committee;
- ✓ Ensures the dissemination and sharing of information within the network;
- ✓ Prepares the network's annual, activity and financial reports;
- ✓ Prepares monitoring and evaluation activities;
- ✓ Creates and updates a database on the members of Dynamique Citoyenne;
- ✓ Technically supports the network in seeking strategic partnerships with other networks, platforms or collectives;
- ✓ Establishes an alert system and a mechanism to protect members;
- ✓ Prepares the production of periodic publications on the activities of Dynamique Citoyenne and its members;
- ✓ Is responsible for all action research activities related to communication, advocacy and mobilization within the network;
- ✓ Ensures monitoring of the implementation of training and capacity building activities;
- ✓ Presents financial reports and balance sheets at each meeting of the Management Committee and the National Council;
- ✓ Reports to the Management Committee and the National Council on what Dynamique Citoyenne receives as subsidies and contributions at the national and regional levels;
- ✓ Publishes the accounts and makes the financial statements of the Regional Coordination Units available to all;
- ✓ Implements the provisions of the administrative and financial procedures manual;
- ✓ Ensures that each region has a bank account;
- ✓ Ensures reporting on sessions of the Management Committee;
- ✓ Is responsible for setting up a network management system.

VII- THE REGIONAL DIRECTORIES

Article 45: They are the implementation bodies, at the regional level, of decisions taken by Regional Coordination Units.

Article 46: Composition

Each Regional Directory is made-up of three (03) member CSOs elected by the Regional Coordination Unit including, as far as possible, a representative of NGOs and Associations, a representative of Trade Unions and a representative of faith-based organizations.

The Regional Directory is responsible for setting up a mechanism for animating the Regional Coordination Unit.

Article 47: Eligibility criteria for the Regional Directory

The eligibility criteria for the Regional Directory are as follows:

- ✓ Organizational experience (at least 5 years within the network);
- ✓ Achievements of the organization in the field (see activity report);
- ✓ Moral integrity and reputation of the member;
- ✓ Member availability.

Article 48: Powers

The Regional Directory is made-up of a Regional Focal Point, a Regional Mission Officer and a Regional Social Mediator.

The responsibilities of each of them are as follows:

- a) The Regional Focal Point (RFP) ensures consistency between the orientations of the National Council, the resolutions of the Management Committee, the activities planned by the National Executive Secretariat and the activities implemented at the regional level; ensures compliance with both the network Charter and the laws and regulations of the Republic. He is the holder of the social signature of Dynamique Citoyenne at the regional level. All communications are addressed to him and as such, he is the only one authorized to sign network correspondences at the regional level. However, he may delegate his power to other members of the Regional Directory.
- b) The Regional Social Mediator (RSM) supervises strategic monitoring and advocacy activities at the regional level.
- c) The Regional Mission Officer (RMO) monitors training and capacity building activities.

Although each member of the Regional Directory has specific responsibilities, decisions are taken collectively.

Article 49: Renewal

The renewal of the members of the Regional Directory is done every three years by the Regional Coordination Unit. This renewal is supervised by the Management Committee and the National Executive Secretariat.

VIII- DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATIONS

Article 50: If necessary, Divisional Coordination Units for Dynamique Citoyenne can be created at the divisional level. The composition, responsibilities and functioning of these units shall be defined by the Regional Directories.

Article 51: The Divisional Directory ensures mutatis mutandis at the divisional level the same attributions devolved to the Regional Directory.

TITLE V: RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURE

CHAPTER XVIII: RESOURCES

Article 53: The resources of Dynamique Citoyenne come from membership fees, member contributions, capital gains from projects executed by Dynamique Citoyenne, the incomes generated by services and events organized by Dynamique Citoyenne, and any other resources not prohibited by the law and which does not contradict the values and principles of Dynamique Citoyenne.

Article 54: All Dynamique Citoyenne resources must be recorded in its account books.

CHAPTER XIX: EXPENDITURE

Article 55: Any expenditure must be made in accordance with the management procedures in force at Dynamique Citoyenne.

Section 56: Dynamique Citoyenne's funds are held in accounts opened in its name in first-class financial institutions.

Article 57: The signatories of Dynamique Citoyenne accounts are two members of the Management Committee and the National Executive Secretary. Any withdrawal of funds from the account requires the signature of the President of the Management Committee.

TITLE VI: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 58:

- a) All the organizations that joined Dynamique Citoyenne before the adoption of this Charter (including founding members and active partners) are required to comply with the new provisions of this Charter.
- b) The Dynamique Citoyenne label, abbreviated “DC”, is a collective and indivisible property. No one can claim exclusive ownership of it. As a label and in accordance with the provisions governing intellectual property, it will be registered with the African Intellectual Property Organization (known by the acronym OAPI). Any declaration, legalization, registration taken at any level whatsoever is null and void. The label is controlled and can only be used by Dynamique Citoyenne bodies enshrined in the Charter and recognized as such by the competent authorities.

Article 59: A manual of administrative and financial procedures and a code of conduct adopted by the National Council specify certain provisions of this Charter.

Article 60: The dissolution of Dynamique Citoyenne can only be pronounced in an Extraordinary National Council convened expressly for this purpose.

Article 61: The Extraordinary National Council which pronounces the dissolution appoints a liquidation commission. The network's assets are granted to a national association or network pursuing the same objectives.

Section 62: This Charter can only be amended by the National Council.

Article 63: This Charter was adopted on May 3, 2006, amended by the National Council of May 5, 2007, revised on September 10, 2009 and January 10, 2014, amended on December 9, 2015 at the Ebolowa National Council, revised by the Extraordinary National Council on July 9, 2016, amended on December 13, 2019 in Yaounde.

Done in Yaounde, December 13, 2019