

Committee: Security Council

Issue: The crisis in Cameroon

Student Officer: Alexandros Ballis

Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Alexandros Ballis and I am a 10th grader at the German School of Thessaloniki. This year I will have the greatest pleasure and honor to serve as a Deputy President in the Security Council of the 4th annual ACGMUN. This conference will mark my fourth chairing experience and my eleventh conference overall.

First of all, I would like to congratulate all of you for both your decision to get involved in the challenging, but at the same time, exciting world of Model United Nations, as well as for selecting to participate in such a great conference. I can assure you that MUN is an incredible experience, since you get the chance to involve yourselves in current affairs and issues that will define our generation, improve your public speaking and negotiating skills, ameliorate your use of the English language and last, but certainly not least, make new friends!

Both of the topics of this year's agenda are of the utmost importance. However, this study guide will focus on the first topic of the agenda, namely "The crisis in Cameroon". The situation in Cameroon is really unstable and therefore, we need to ensure that it is going to be stabilized. Taking into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals and the Charter of the Security Council, securing peace is one of our primary responsibilities.

This study guide, as mentioned, will provide you with some basic knowledge and explain the important aspects of the matter. However, be reminded that this study guide is anything but enough for your research on your country's policy. You are highly encouraged to conduct further research, in order to understand your country's view on the topic and be fully prepared for the conference.

My email address, alexandros.ballis@yahoo.com, always remains open for you. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this study guide, our topic, your delegation's policy or the rules of procedure in general.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all in person!

Best regards,

Alexandros Ballis

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Cameroon is a country located in the Central African region. Over the past years, Cameroon used to be a European colony, and the governors of the region changed many times due to the instability in Europe (see the aftermath of World War One and World War Two). After gaining independence, Cameroon became known for its stability. However, the country has faced violence and many human rights abuses since 2018. The numerous attacks by the Islamic military group, Boko Haram, in the Far North, along with a worsening humanitarian crisis and a separatist movement in the Anglophone South, have made the situation impuissant.

The major ongoing problem in the region is the Anglophone Crisis, a conflict of entirely colonial origin, which is now taking place between the Francophone North and the Anglophone South. While the death toll is not high, compared to other ongoing conflicts, the people in Anglophone Cameroon are facing a lack of basic services such as hospitals, schools etc. Furthermore, basic human right abuses are a common phenomenon, especially in the Southern Part of the country.

Another problem that is also affecting the region, especially the Northern part of the country, is the Crisis in the Lake Chad Basin region. It is facing unprecedented economic and environmental instability, which has led to insecurity prevailing. Cameroon is directly affected by those problems, since it has to confront poverty and violence.

Furthermore, the Bakassi Peninsula in the Southern part of the country, near the Guinea Gulf is disputed, which causes additional instability in Cameroon. Nigeria and Cameroon are trying to regulate the borders in the region; however, they have not come to any conclusion, despite the situation was also brought to the International Court of Justice, and the situation there remains unsafe.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Anglophone

The term “Anglophone” means that someone uses English as their native language. “Anglophone” also refers to English-speaking communities in areas where more than one language is used.

Francophone

The Term “Francophone” refers to a person whose native language is French. It also refers to regions that use French as their official language.

Colony

“A country or area controlled politically by a more powerful country that is often faraway.”¹

Terrorist Attack

“A surprise attack involving the deliberate use of violence against civilians in the hope of attaining political or religious aims”²

Boko Haram

The term “Boko Haram” refers to an Islamist terrorist group, which was created in 2002 in Nigeria. The group’s name means “Western education is a sin” in a regional language.³

Insurgency

“An occasion when a group of people attempt to take control of their country by force”.⁴

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Colonial Past

In 1884 Germany signed an agreement with King Bell, who was the leader of Cameroon, under which Cameroon became a German colony. However, the instability in Europe and Germany’s defeat in the First World War, forced “the Allies” (France, Belgium & the United Kingdom) to take away all of Germany’s colonies. The region was controlled by English, French and Belgian forces until 1919, when a League of Nations mandate was signed. This mandate divided the country in two parts, namely the Eastern Cameroon, which was governed by France, and the Western, which was governed by the British Empire.

In the early 1950s the political party UPC (Union of the Peoples of Cameroon) demanded a united state; however, their request was not fulfilled. Nonetheless, the country became a Federal Republic in October 1961, after some parts of the British-administered part of Cameroon had already decided to join Nigeria. Although being

¹“COLONY | Meaning In The Cambridge English Dictionary”. *Dictionary.Cambridge.Org*, 2019, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/colony>.

²Vocabulary.com. (2020). *terrorist attack - Dictionary Definition*. [online] Available at: <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/terrorist%20attack>

³“Exactly What Does The Phrase Boko Haram Mean?”. *BBC News*, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-magazine-monitor-27390954>.

⁴“INSURGENCY | Meaning In The Cambridge English Dictionary”. *Dictionary.Cambridge.Org*, 2019, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/insurgency>.

an independent state was a great step for Cameroon, there were some major differences between the two parts of the country. The French territory was more economically developed compared to the British one and this resulted to a political and economic disadvantage for the Anglophone citizens.

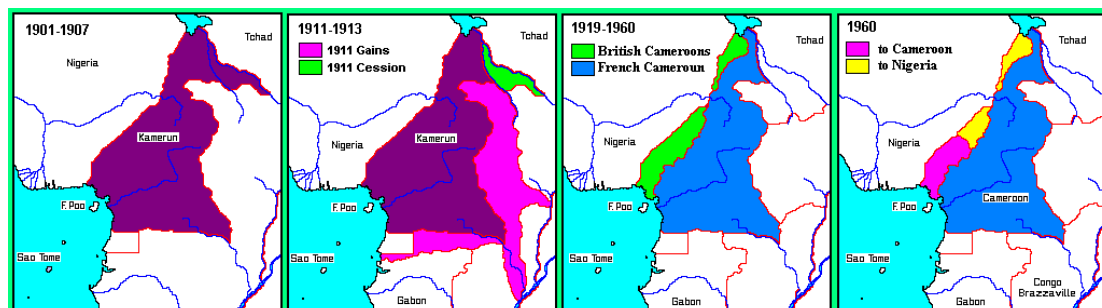


Figure 1 Map showing the different colonies in Cameroon in the course of time⁵

Ambazonia Crisis

The term Ambazonia refers to the secessionist, Anglophone part of Cameroon, which aims at being independent. The Anglophone Crisis is the major ongoing problem in the region of Cameroon. It started in 2017 and since then it has taken the lives of over 3,000 people and displaced over 500,000 civilians. English-speaking regions began mass protests against the Francophone regions, and the government responded violently, leading Anglophone regions to declare independence from the Francophone

Eastern Cameroon. Since then, the government has declared war on the separatists, which inflamed the situation between government and rebel groups. Many villages were

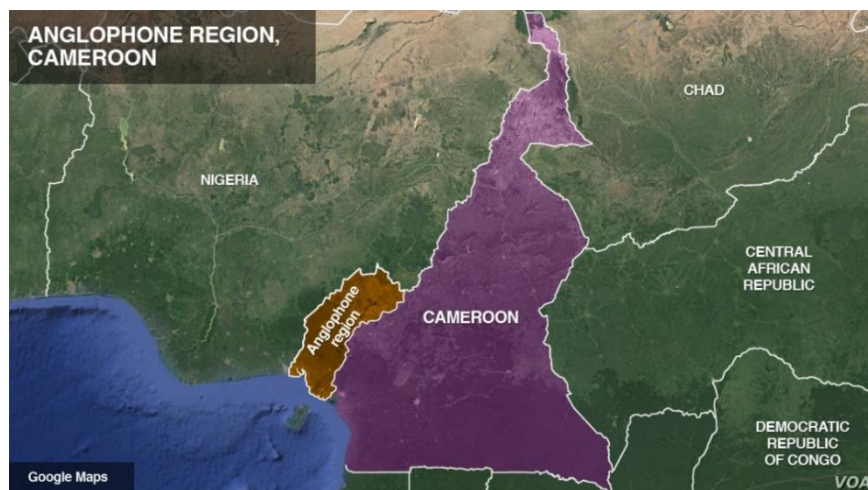


Figure 2 Map showing the Francophone (purple) and the Anglophone (orange) parts of Cameroon

burnt by government forces or by terrorist attacks, something that is now common in the region. In Cameroon, 80% of the citizens are Francophone and only 20% Anglophone.

⁵"WHKMLA : History Of Cameroon". *Zum.De*, 2019, <http://www.zum.de/whkmla/region/centrafrica/xcameroon.html>.

Back in October 2016, an Anglophone federalist movement, named Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium (CACSC), which consisted of Anglophone lawyers and teachers, opposed to the use of French in schools, the use of the French law system and the appointment of French-speaking judges in the courtrooms of the Anglophone regions, as they found it to be a menace towards the Anglophone character of the country. The organization started peaceful protests, but the government responded violently by arresting more than a hundred protesters and killing up to six. In January 2017, the government created a committee in order to put in motion the dialogue between the government, which mainly reflects the Francophone part, and CACSC, which acted on behalf of the Anglophone citizens. The members of CACSC did not want to converse with the government, until the release of the protesters who were arrested. After that, they presented a proposal for a federal state and the autonomy of the Anglophone regions. As a response, the government arrested more members of CACSC and banned CACSC and Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC). This led to the Ambazonia Crisis in September 2017.

In May 2019 the Anglophone Crisis was at the forefront of the world news, since the European Union Parliament requested from the UN Security Council to discuss the problem. After some days, the government of Cameroon announced that it was ready to discuss anything about the issue, except Ambazonia's independence.

The Lake Chad Basin Crisis

The Lake Chad Basin is located in Central Africa and is beneficial for the countries surrounding it (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria) since it provides water to more than 30 million people. The lake is not only facing environmental issues, but there are also several conflicts taking nowadays place, which affect the regions' stability.

The situation, both environmental as well as economical, in the Lake Chad Basin region is really unstable and causes insecurity to the citizens of the region. It is being reformed to a desert, since there is a major lack of rainfalls. This has given the chance to Boko Haram to begin attacking the region. The Boko Haram insurgency has led to the displacement of thousands of people due to the numerous attacks, which have also caused death to many citizens.

Cameroon is also affected by the Lake Chad Basin Crisis, as it confronts violence and poverty. The violence in Northern Nigeria is affecting Cameroon, especially on the aspects of food security and the livelihood sector. "Cameroon's Far North district offers hospitality to around 200,000 constrained transients, and up to

57,000 Nigerian evacuees who settled either in the Minawao outcast camp or with nearby networks along fringes regions.”⁶

“Families on the run often survived brutal attacks and face severe trauma,” said Mr. Toby Lanzer, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. “As if this was not enough of a burden, we now worry that their lives are threatened by the lack of food and water, malnutrition and deadly epidemics such as cholera and measles. As farmers were forced to flee away from their lands, many will miss the harvest next month. Without timely humanitarian assistance, communities may take years to recover,” he urged.⁷

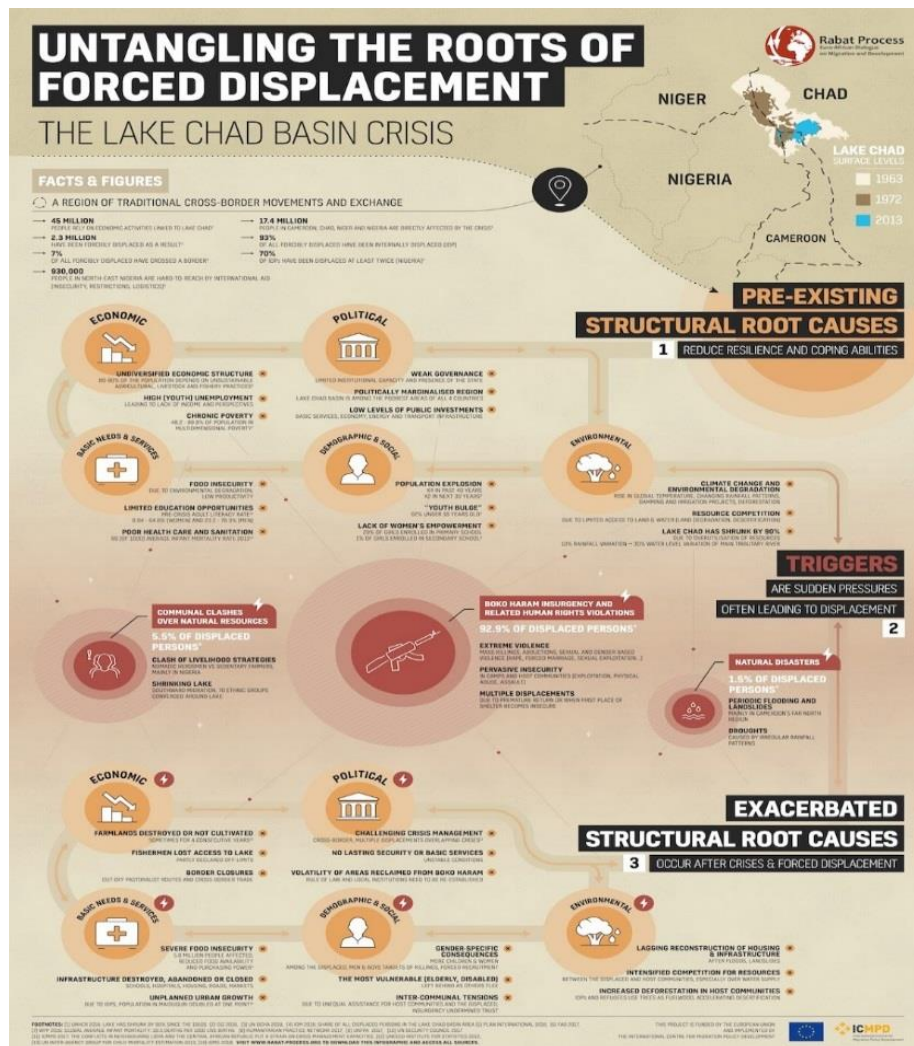


Figure 3 Infographic by the European Union and ICMPD about the Lake Chad Basin Crisis

⁶"Cameroon Host To Families Fleeing Nigeria, Lake Chad Basin – UN Relief Official | Africa Renewal". Un.Org, 2020, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/cameroon-host-families-fleeing-nigeria-lake-chad-basin—un-relief-official>.

⁷"Cameroon Host To Families Fleeing Nigeria, Lake Chad Basin – UN Relief Official | Africa Renewal". Un.Org, 2019, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/cameroon-host-families-fleeing-nigeria-lake-chad-basin—un-relief-official>.

Human Rights Violations

According to the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees), more than 400 of the 1,200 casualties have been identified as Cameroonian civilians. More than 239,000 Cameroonians were displaced due to the conflict. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) along with 8 other non-profit organizations contacted the UN Security Council, highlighting that schools and hospitals are under attack. It also stresses that many journalists have been detained and the media are daily under threats of attacks and arrest.

The Human Rights Watch (HRW) discovered that administration powers reacted to the developing rebellion via conducting oppressive security tasks against networks associated with supporting secessionist gatherings. Security powers committed extrajudicial executions, utilized unnecessary power against regular citizens, tormented and mishandled speculated separatists and different prisoners and consumed homes and other property in scores of towns. The abuses continued when separatist groups attacked and burned dozens of schools, threatened teachers, students and parents, kidnapped principals and violently attacked teachers and students, so as to avoid the invasion of French in courtrooms and schools of the Anglophone regions.

The situation in Bakassi peninsula

The conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria about the Bakassi Peninsula was caused by the cession of Bakassi from Nigeria to Cameroon. In 1994 Cameroon brought the case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in order to avoid an armed conflict. In 2002 the ICJ ruled in favor of Cameroon. In 2006, both parties signed the Greentree Agreement, which regulates the borders between Nigeria and Cameroon in the natural gas and oil rich Bakassi Peninsula region. The conflict formally ended on September 25, 2009 with an amnesty deal, however, two separatist groups, namely the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and the Bakassi Freedom Fighters (BFF), kept fighting about the governance of this region. Although this conflict is not widely known, it is affecting not only the Bakassi peninsula in Cameroon, but the entire Guinea Gulf, one of the biggest and most important gulfs in Africa. Piracy in the Guinea Gulf is also a common phenomenon, which should be eliminated, because it has a negative impact on Cameroon's foreign. It also worsens the living conditions of the citizens, since they are living under the pirates' threat.



Figure 4 A map of Nigeria and Cameroon which shows the location of the Bakassi Peninsula

Boko Haram insurgency

On another note, Cameroon continues its defense against Boko Haram and its subsidiaries in Northern Cameroon and Nigeria. The fight against Boko Haram, an Islamic militant group in Western Nigeria, has exhausted Cameroon's military, leading many Northern regions to become destabilized. As a result, the United States of America have sent military aid to the nation to assist with counterterrorism, including some 300 troops to help train Cameroonian military personnel in fighting Boko Haram. However, relations changed between the United States of America and Cameroon when reports of widespread human rights abuses arose. This has led to the cutting of military aid to Cameroon by the United States of America and at the same time it brought the crisis in Cameroon to a forefront in the international community.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Cameroon

As Didier Badjeck, Cameroon's Ministry of Defence Spokesman, said "the enemy is inside the population. They go in one door, they are normal citizens. They leave through the back door, they have a weapon and they are secessionists."⁸

France

The French President, Emmanuel Macron, was urged to take action in the Anglophone Crisis by many organizations, such as the Africa Freedom Coalition, which protects Human Rights. In a letter they sent to president Macron, they underline the importance of the projection of the crisis in the World News and they ask the French Republic to help Cameroon maintain peace. As Rebecca Tinsley, founder of Waging Peace and one of the signatories of the letter says, "At the end of the colonial period, France never really left its former colonies. Cameroon has oil, minerals and timber, and the French are very involved in the military and economic future of Cameroon. There is a disturbing and disappointing silence from a country that should be putting pressure on President Biya over his human rights record."⁹

United Kingdom

The western part of Cameroon used to be a British colony, and that is why the United Kingdom is willing to cooperate with Cameroon in order to establish peace in the area. The United Kingdom is directly affected by the crisis, since the Anglophone Cameroonians are fighting for a legal system based on the United Kingdom's one and

⁸"Cameroon's Language Division Is Tearing It Apart". *The Independent*, 2019, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/cameroon-language-french-english-military-africa-ambazonia-a8770396.html>.

⁹"France "Pressured" To End Cameroon Crisis". *NEWSDAY CAMEROON*, 2019, <https://newdaycameroon.wordpress.com/2019/11/15/france-pressured-to-end-cameroon-crisis/>.

an education system which will provide the pupils with the necessary English skills and efficient knowledge on specific subjects. The Anglophone crisis was also discussed in the House of Commons, the lower house of the English Parliament, where the government of the United Kingdom urged all the citizens of Cameroon to participate in the process of inclusive dialogue.

Switzerland

The Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs announced that it is trying to facilitate a resolution of the Anglophone crisis throughout a dialogue process. The United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, welcomed the Swiss commitment and urged all the parties to participate in this process.

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

The Human Rights Watch is an intergovernmental organization, which ensures that the UN Declaration of Human Rights is being abided by and addresses humanitarian issues and abuses which violate Human Rights. As they state on their website: "Everything we do circles back to our commitment to justice, dignity, compassion, and equality. Our work has expanded to five continents. We investigated massacres and even genocides, along with government takeovers of media and the baseless arrests of activists and political opposition figures. At the same time, we expanded our work to address abuses against those likely to face discrimination, including women, LGBT people, and people with disabilities."¹⁰

During attacks in Cameroon, which were documented by HRW, security powers shot and executed over twelve civilians. In addition, more than four women over the age of 50 were found deceased, after security powers have set their homes ablaze.

Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC)

The Southern Cameroons National Council is an organization seeking the independence of the Anglophone Southern from the Francophone Eastern part of Cameroon. It was characterised as illegal by Paul Biya, former President of Cameroon. Security forces are regularly interrupting SCNC's meetings and arresting members of the Council.

Southern Cameroons Ambazonia Consortium United Front (SCACUF)

SCACUF was created by Anglophones and it is an appealing organisation, which aims at the independence of Cameroon's Southern Part, Ambazonia. This organization acted as an umbrella organization, which means that it organizes the

¹⁰"About Us". *Human Rights Watch*, 2019, <https://www.hrw.org/about-us>.

action of several other smaller organizations, all with similar purposes. One organization who acts under SCACUF is the Ambazonia Government Council (AGC).

African Union

The African Union is a continental union which consists of 55 Member States located in Africa. Its role is to promote peace and security, as well as to ensure unity and stability in the region. However, it has a negative impact on Cameroon's foreign relations and it has not been proven helpful for the situation taking nowadays place in Cameroon. Although securing peace in Cameroon was one of the eight priorities of the African Union in 2019, the African Union has not fully completed its goal.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1884	The German Empire signed an agreement under which Cameroon became a German protectorate.
1919	A League of Nations mandate defined the status of Cameroon and the administration of the country was given to France and the United Kingdom.
1961	French Cameroon and British Cameroon were combined in a new state, namely the Federal Republic of Cameroon.
1995	The Southern Cameroons National Council was created, aiming at making the Anglophone part independent.
2002	The International Court of Justice ruled the conflict between Nigeria and Cameroon about the Bakassi peninsula.
September 25, 2009	The Bakassi conflict ended, due to the verdict that was drafted by the International Court of Justice.
2014	The Boko Haram insurgency spread from Nigeria to Cameroon.
November 2016	Major protests started in Anglophone regions of Cameroon.

September 09, 2017	The armed conflict (Ambazonia Crisis) started between separatists (who declared Ambazonia independent) and the Cameroonian government.
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RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

S/RES/2349 (2017)

This resolution was adopted by the United Nations Security Council on March 31, 2017. Its main purpose is to address humanitarian, disarmament as well as burgeoning issues in the Lake Chad Basin region. Particularly, the Boko Haram attacks were convicted by all member states and all United Nations members were discouraged from funding such actions. Furthermore, United Nations organizations were also urged to provide support, especially when dealing with the protection of refugees. Nonetheless, Boko Haram continued their action, which means that this Resolution was not that effective.

Case 94 of the International Court of Justice

In 1994 Cameroon brought Nigeria to the International Court of Justice in order to regulate the borders in the Bakassi region. In the application, which Cameroon has submitted to the International Court of Justice, in order for it to examine the case, they referred to Nigeria occupying several Cameroonian localities on the Bakassi peninsula. In the Court's judgment in 2002, it requested Nigeria to withdraw its administration, military and/or police forces from the area of the Lake Chad, which is under Cameroonian control, and from the Bakassi peninsula.

Greentree Agreement

The Greentree Agreement is a bilateral agreement between Cameroon and Nigeria, which was signed on June 12, 2006 in New York, and settled the border dispute between those two countries over the oil and natural gas rich Bakassi Peninsula region. It foresaw the changeover of the authority of the region and the withdrawal of troops. It also stipulated the creation of a committee, composed of Cameroon, Nigeria, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the United Nations, which was in charge of monitoring the implementation of the agreement.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Although many countries have offered humanitarian assistance, and multiple countries requested the crisis to be discussed in the United Nations Security Council, the crisis is not widely known. Numerous governments have criticized several times

the Cameroonian government for violating human rights and for not doing enough in order to solve the crisis democratically and efficiently. Furthermore, countries such as Switzerland, Holy See and the Netherlands offered to act as mediators and in addition, Belgium urged Cameroon to copy their actions when dealing with multilingualism. Nonetheless the crisis in Cameroon continues and both parties do not seem to be willing to discuss it.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The situation in Cameroon is really unstable and therefore, it should be stabilized. Taking into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals and the Charter of the Security Council, securing peace is one of the world's primary responsibilities.

The Anglophone crisis is one of Africa's major problems and thus the African Union should provide solutions to both parties and help them maintain peace in the region.

The two proposals that are currently on the table are the following: The first one is a bilingual country, which will follow Belgium's motive, in which both English and French will be official languages and both of them will be used in courthouses and schools. The second one is Ambazonia's independence and the creation of two autonomous states, namely the creation of (Francophone) Cameroon and Ambazonia. Many countries expressed interest as mediators in the negotiation process and some other have already proposed solutions for the crisis. If Ambazonia gains its independence, then there will occur economic and political consequences on the region, which will have to be addressed.

As someone can easily understand, after restoring peace in the region, it is necessary to make sure that it will flourish economically, and for that to happen, it is mandatory to ensure permanent and not temporary.

One other conflict which should be ended is the conflict in the Bakassi region. For this conflict to end, it is vital to take care of the International Court of Justice's Verdict and follow its proposal, when dealing with the regulations of the borders in that specific region.

Last but certainly not least an important aspect of the crisis, which should be solved, is the numerous human rights abuses and the relocation of many families due to the conflict. The African Union or the Human Rights Watch could also assign to a person, the position of a human rights protector, who will be in charge of the human rights of the citizens and address possible violations being made by any of the parties involved. This person should also be responsible for negotiating possible reparation which can be given to families that were displaced due to the conflict, and/or to persons whose human rights were abused.

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