

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work - Fatherland

**THE CHILDREN'S REGIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

YAOUNDE, CAMEROON

30 July - 2 August 2007

THEME: "PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH"

AUGUST 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	FORWARD	2
II.	BACKGROUND	3
III.	INTRODUCTION	
I.1	Sponsors	5
IV.	OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE	
IV.1	Main objective.....	7
IV.2	Specific objectives	
V.	DAY ONE, MONDAY, 30 JULY 2007: CLIMATE CHANGE & FOOD SECURITY	
V.1	Opening session	7
V.2	Briefing on the UNEP Tunza Project.....	9
V.3	Plenary Sessions Presentation and Workshops	10
VI.1	DAY TWO, TUESDAY, 31 JULY 2007: FOREST & BIODIVERSITY	
VI.2	The billion tree planting campaign.....	10
VI.3	Field Trip to Mbalmayo Forestry School.....	11
VII.	DAY THREE: WATER & SANITATION/WASTE MANAGEMENT	
VII.1	Keynote Speech from Mrs. Donna Goodman, UNICEF.....	12
VII.2	Workshop on Water & Sanitation/Waste Management.....	13
VIII.	DAY FOUR: CHILDREN PRESENTATION/WORKSHOPS DRYLANDS & DESERTS.	
VIII.2	Briefing on the 2008 International Children's Conference on the Environment in Norway.....	14
VIII.3	The Conference outcome.....	14
IX.	CLOSING SESSION	15
IX.1	Reading of the final communiqué	
X.	CONCLUSION	17
X.1	ANNEXES	
XI.1	Programme of the conference.....	19
XI.2	Final communiqué.....	23
XI.3	Opening address of the Government Delegate to the Yaounde Urban council.....	27
XI.4	Opening address of the Secretary General at the Prime Minister's Office.....	29
XI.5	Closing address of the Address of the Minister of Environment and Nature Protection.....	33

I. FORWARD



The government and the people of Cameroon lived through some exciting moments while hosting the first African Regional Children's Conference on the Environment.

This meeting which brought together over 300 children and young persons at the *Yaounde Conference Centre* from the 30th July – 2nd August 2007, provided a singular opportunity for us to look at the environment from the children's perspective.

In my capacity as the Minister of Environment and Nature Protection for Cameroon, I was highly honoured to coordinate this memorable event which drew both national and international attention as well as harnessing the involvement of children and other young people in the protection of our environment.

The children examined issues of major challenges faced by African countries in the field of the environment and I was marvelled by the perception and the level of environmental awareness of most of the participants at the conference. Personally, I learnt a lot from the children.

The main objective of the conference – *preparing participants towards the Global Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment in 2008 in Norway* was largely attained. The children while appealing to our consciences to bequeath a better environment to future generations also invited us all to action.

This report vividly translates the activities as undertaken by the children during the event. I therefore urge every reader to contribute in one way or the other in the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the participants, as this will go a long way to make Africa the most liveable place in the world.

HELE PIERRE

Minister of Environment and Nature Protection

II. BACKGROUND

UNEP started its work with young people in 1985, which was designated International Youth Year. Since then, it has developed several global and regional initiatives, activities and networks. UNEP has held regular conferences for young people and promoted environmental awareness through competitions, recognition and partnerships with international, regional and national organizations working with young people. UNEP has also involved young people in its Governing Council sessions and in the development of regional and global environmental reports. UNEP also supports activities of children and youth in schools and universities.

Under an overall concept entitled “Tunza”, UNEP has developed a strategy with the view to increase the participation of young people in environmental issues. Its objective is to create a global movement in which children and youth worldwide will actively participate in environmental activities. It seeks to enhance, inspire and enable the involvement of children and youth in sustainable development. The vision is to foster a generation of environmentally conscious citizens who will better influence decision-making processes and act responsibly to create a sustainable world.

The strategy responds to UNEP Governing Council Decision 21/22, which requested the development of a long-term strategy on the engagement and involvement of young people in UNEP. It primarily targets young people, 24 years and below, who constitute 47 per cent or 2.9 billion of the world’s population. The majority of them (87 per cent or 2.5 billion) live in developing countries, where access to environmental information is still limited.

In preparation of the Global Tunza Conference on the Environment scheduled for 2008, Cameroon agreed to host the Regional Preparatory Conference, which gathered over 300 children from Africa and a delegation from Norway. The Preparatory conference was sponsored by *Young Agenda 21* in Norway. The Regional Conference took place from 30th July to 2nd August 2007 in the Yaoundé Conference Centre.

In order to provide support to the Government of Cameroon for the organization of the Regional Children Conference, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP and the Cameroon’s Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection MINEP.

This MOU was also relevant to ROA's Programme of work, in enhancing the effectiveness of the development and delivery of the programme of work of UNEP in Africa, promoting and supporting the work, activities and initiatives of regional environmental forums, with the view to maximizing their involvement in the preparation and implementation of the decisions of GC/GMEF. This activity is also in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

In consistence with the UN reforms which recommend UN agencies to deliver as one at country level, this activity was to be carried out in collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF and UNDP/UN Coordination Office in Cameroon.

The objectives of the Regional Children Conference included the following:

- Learn about the environment through plenary sessions, hands-on workshops and field trips;
- Share views and concerns about the environment;
- Enhance the skills of children and their chaperones on sustainable development;
- Develop lasting friendships

III. Introduction

The first TUNZA Regional Children's Conference on the environment took place in Cameroon from 30th July to 2nd August 2007. This conference brought together children from all parts of Africa to learn about the environment and provide a forum for the children to voice their concerns for the environment.

A delegation from Norway equally participated in the Conference which was opened by H.E. Jules Doret NDONGO, Secretary General at the Prime Minister's Office who was assisted by Dr NANA ABOUBAKAR Djalloh, Minister Delegate at the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection

The preparatory process of the conference culminated in plenary sessions and workshops that were animated by resource persons drawn from the public and private sectors. The children also made presentations on environmental topics affecting Africa and demonstrated a high level of understanding of environmental issues from their questions, experiences, poems and debates on hot topics such as climate change, food security, hygiene and sanitation, forest and biodiversity, dry lands and deserts. Tree planting and recycling were among the main solutions children identified to help protect the environment.

The conference was successful in attracting the interest of international and local press. Interviews with print and audio visual media together with the exhibition of environmental history highlighted the plight of the environment.

It was an exceptional opportunity for the children to discuss, share their experiences and develop strategies that will enable them to practically care and maintain a healthy environment.

This report is intended to be a reference document for conference participants and other interested partners. It includes summaries of speeches made during the conference, presentations from resource persons on the main themes and the various activities that were undertaken by the participants such as the field trip and the tree planting exercise.

III.2 SPONSORS

The conference would not have been successful but for the support of the government of Cameroon coordinated through the Ministry of

Environment and Nature Protection, (MINEP), UNEP, Young Agenda 21, UNICEF, UNESCO, and UNDP. The process also benefited from the strong support of ANAFOR, CIFOR, SEME Mineral Water, SONARA, HEVEACAM and HYSACAM.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

IV.1 Main objective

The main goal of the conference was to enhance the capacity of the participants (children) to maintain environmental sustainability in preparation for the next children's conference which will take place in Norway in June 2008.

IV.2 Specific objectives

The conference was an opportunity for children to share knowledge and enhance their skills to address environmental problems.

Specifically, the conference had aimed at:

- Identifying some common environmentally related problems of top priority for Africa from Children's perspective;
- Providing an opportunity for children to express their opinions on environmentally related problems;
- Enabling the children to think globally and act locally;
- Sharing new ideas about environmental challenges.
- Expressing their opinions on some environmental concerns both locally and international.
- Developing friendship and make fun with the other children from other countries.
- Providing participants with information about the Tunza conference that will take place from the 17-21 of June 2008 in Norway.

V. DAY ONE, MONDAY, 30 JULY 2007: CLIMATE CHANGE & FOOD SECURITY

V.1 OPENING SESSION

High-level policy makers, experts, representatives of some UN agencies in Cameroon, members of government and the Prime Ministry took part in the opening ceremony.



The little Angels of the Environment

This ceremony which started with the singing of the Cameroon national anthem and a welcome song from “*The little Angels of the Environment*” was marked by the presentation of a short film on the consequences of climatic changes in the world. Speeches were made by various guests of honour, notably the representative of the Government Delegate to the Yaounde Urban Council and the representative of the Regional Director for Africa-UNEP. The Secretary General at the Prime Minister’s Office chaired the opening session of the conference.

The representative of the Government Delegate to the Yaounde Urban Council welcomed the participants to Cameroon. In his keynote address the Government Delegate to Yaounde Urban Council expressed his appreciations to the choice of Cameroon in general and Yaounde in particular for the organisation of this Regional conference, which is aimed at creating awareness about environmental problems that are challenging our existence especially amongst children. He noted that the centre Province is endowed with rich natural resources which must be used in a sustainable manner.



The representative of the Government Delegate to the Yaounde

He went further to give a brief overview of activities, being undertaken by the Yaounde city council to protect the environment, he outlined the efforts put in place to reinforce waste management strategies and also promised to reinforce sensitization programmes amongst the city dwellers, especially in the area of sanitation and the state of the environment in general. He concluded by urging that all resolutions taken as an outcome of this conference be implemented for the sake of the future generation.

UNEP executive Director’s Representative at the Conference, Mr. Strike Mkandla said "The choice of Cameroon for this conference was not an accident". As a matter of fact, the country retains its magnificent forest cover and rich diversity of plants and animals and has committed itself to plant 45 million trees under the UNEP Billion Tree Campaign.



Mr Strike MKANDLA, UNEP

The theme of this conference is very appropriate at this stage in the development of the world, Mr Strike observed. "Practice what you preach" is an important motto, not just for children but for everyone. There are important adjustments that need to be made in individual and collective lifestyles, and little actions that cumulatively make a difference. He stressed that the topics of the conference highlight the areas in which action is urgently needed: Climate change and food security, Forests and Bio-diversity, Water and Sanitation/Waste management, Dry lands and Deserts.

In his opening speech, the Secretary General at the Prime minister's office reminded the philosophy that guided the organisation of the conference before underlining the importance of the central theme "Practice what you Preach".



*Mr Jule DORET NDONGO,
Secretary General at the Prime
Minister's office*

He noted that the message the children were sending out from such conferences ought to bring us to think deeply and to act by adopting new attitudes that take into consideration the protection of the environment.

V.2 BRIEFING ON THE UNEP TUNZA PROJECT

The briefing to participants was done by Mr Theodore OBEN, Head of Children and Youth Unit, Division of Communications and Public Information, UNEP. Tunza means in Kiswahili language, “*to treat with care and affection*” just like everyone needs to be treated.



Mr Theodore OBEN, Head of Children and Youth Unit, Division of Communications and Public Information, UNEP

He went further to present some of the activities of this project amongst which are:

- Sharing views about the environment from other parts of the world through painting competitions;
- Preparation of African children against the international conference in Norway, June 2008;
- Invite the children participate on the world environment day activities;
- Participation in Tree planting campaigns.

He also stressed on the expected outcomes of this project, notably that:

- The children are expected to plant trees;
- They are expected to give importance to trees;
- They have to recognise the role trees play in the environment;
- Children are expected to promote the culture of planting trees;
- They are to use painting to promote environmental protection;
- They are encouraged to send written materials on any of their activities on the environment to UNEP Website.

V.3 PLENARY SESSIONS PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOPS

The activities later in the afternoon began with one plenary Session presentation on climate change and its effect on the ecosystem, presented by Dr. AMOUGOU Joseph. This was followed by four Break-out Sessions or workshops. Each workshop received briefings relevant to its topics of discussion. The distinguished speakers for each workshop and their topics of discussion were as follows:

- Subgroup 1: Ozzy Ozone, green house effect, Global warming, Ozone layer by Mr ENOH Peter (Focal point);
- Subgroup 2: Food security ;
- Subgroup 3: Sustainable agriculture, soil treatment;
- Subgroup 4: Renewable energy by Mr HAMANI Anatole.

The workshops provided a unique opportunity for participants to engage in an open discussion with the resource persons and to identify some common problems arising as a result of climate change in Africa and other parts of the world.

VI. DAY TWO, TUESDAY, 31 JULY 2007: FOREST & BIODIVERSITY

VI.1 THE BILLION TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN

The Morning session of this day was characterised by the fulfilment of the campaign slogan the “Billion Tree Planting Campaign”



The participants during the tree planting session

Under the watchful eyes of the Minister Delegate and some important personalities of MINEP, ANAFOR and the Yaounde Urban Council, the participants planted over 4000 Trees. The site chosen for this event was the yard around the Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon. The Ministry of Environment assured the Children of the follow-up on the success of the trees planted by the children.

VI.2 FIELD TRIP TO MBALMAYO FORESTRY SCHOOL

The planting of trees was immediately followed by a trip to the Mbalmayo School of Forestry. It was an opportunity for the participants to see and appreciate the efforts made by the government of Cameroon to protect the forest. This culminated in a tour of the rich forest cover around Mbalmayo.



The participants during their field trip to Mbalmayo

The trip gave an opportunity for the participants to learn about the different species of trees found in the forest and the rich biodiversity that surrounds it. This was important for the participants as some had the opportunity of seeing a forest for their first time and appreciating its importance for the environment.

The afternoon session which started late due to delays incurred in the return journey from the field trip began with children's presentations on environmental topics. This was followed by a plenary session presentation on an Overview of Forests in Cameroon during which the participants were drilled on the types of vegetation in Cameroon, its rich biodiversity, its importance to the Cameroonian economy and the environment.

The final session of the day ended with the Action Group meeting in the course of which participants were given two forms to fill and hand to the organizers the next day. These were:

- the Conference outcome questionnaire;
- and the UNICEF questionnaire on water and sanitation.

VII. DAY THREE: WATER & SANITATION/WASTE MANAGEMENT

VII.1 Keynote Speech from Mrs. Donna Goodman, UNICEF

The morning session for this day began with a presentation from the representative of UNICEF Mrs Donna Goodman, *Project Manager for Environment and Young People programme*. In her presentation that was spiced with a quiz which earned a gift for each correct answer from the children, she developed the 7th Millennium Development Goal which is geared towards Ensuring *Environmental Sustainability*. This goal is said to be linked to six others from its 9th and 10th targets.



Mrs Donna Goodman, Project Manager for Environment and Young People programme, UNICEF

While underlining the role of the child in the MDGs, she presented the environmental challenges faced by children such as; unsafe water, poor hygiene and sanitation, air pollution – indoor and outdoor, disease vectors, chemical hazards just to name a few. In her discussion, she underscored the need for Child-centred solutions in tackling these problems and concluded by highlighting the common ways in which the approaches of 'Children for Environment' can play out.

After this presentation, the children were asked to submit their filled questionnaire on water and sanitation to Mrs Donna Goodman who promised to examine them keenly.

VII.2 Workshop on Water & Sanitation/Waste Management

For practical reasons the next session previously planned to be conducted in working groups was conducted in the plenary.

In that respect, Mr Daniel Moris, assistant General Manager of SEME Mineral water gave a talk on water (source and supply) in urban and rural areas. He focused his presentation on the origin of water, its uses, its importance, and the various purification methods.

Mr Bruno Serge from HYSACAM (Company in charge of Hygiene and Sanitation for Cameroon) on his part presented the various activities conducted by his company which include waste collection, transport and final disposal in landfills. In his presentation, he reminded the participants that little actions such as throwing waste in a dustbin for their final disposal at appropriate areas always matter.

As for Mr LEMNYUY William, a staff of the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, his presentation was on sewage, waste water treatment and sanitation in homes.

While Dr. EFENDENE Blaise gave a talk on waste management techniques such as recycling, re-use, reduce and repair of waste.

VII.3 Children's Exhibition

In a bid to call more attention to their plea, the children were found participating in the poster session where several NGOs on the environment presented the activities of their institutions. UNEP presented children's paintings on their vision of climatic change. Many participants attended the exhibition session which was very captivating.



A poster from Greenpeace Kids for Forestry exhibited during the Conference

The day ended with a cultural evening during which some participants dressed in their traditional regalia exhibited their rich cultural diversity. This event spiced by several traditional dance groups from Cameroon was chaired by the Secretary General in the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, Mr AKWA Patrick KUM BONG.

VIII. DAY FOUR: DRYLANDS & DESERTS.

The fourth and the last day of the conference began with presentations from children on desert and drylands related topics. From poems, to songs through animated power point presentations, the children as one man reiterated the need for a concerted action to combat the advancement of desertification.

This was followed closely by a plenary session presentation on desert and dry lands by Mr Wagnoun Valentine and Mrs BEYALA Babeth, all from MINEP. Drawing their inspiration from a video tape on deserts and dry lands in the world, they presented the consequences of desertification in Africa and the various methods currently used in some parts of Africa to combat it.

VIII.2 Briefing on the 2008 International Children's Conference on the Environment in Norway

The morning session of day four ended with an information session on the TUNZA International children's conference to be organized come 2008 at Stavenger in Norway, presented by a representative of the Norwegian delegation. In her briefing, she presented her organisation "Environmental Foundation" as the institution to organize this forth coming conference in June 2008. She went further to give the objectives

of this conference and the application procedure for those wishing to participate.

VIII.3 The Conference outcome

The children in this last session equally came up with their resolutions and the recommendations of the conference which was to be read and applied by all the participants. These resolutions were as follows:

- 1. All should have a goal of planting a particular number of trees to contribute to the UNEP Billion Tree Campaign. Also each delegate must plant at least 10 trees between now and June 2008 and at least 10 trees every year after the Conference in Norway;*
- 2. Each participant should raise environmental awareness in his/her area or community through stories, dramas and dances;*
- 3. Each participant should ask his/her parents to dig a deep hole in the ground to throw what ever kitchen waste that comes from their kitchen, e.g. orange peels to make rich manure for soil that is good for plants;*
- 4. Each participant should encourage his/her local Radio and TV stations to have programs for the environment animated by children;*
- 5. Each participant should join an active environmental club, if they do not have one, they can always ask their head teacher or parents to start one.*

IX. THE CLOSING SESSION

The closing session was chaired by the Minister of Environment and Nature Protection.

IX.1 Reading of the final communiqué

The children's representatives and members of the junior board team NINDORERA Guy read the final communiqué of the conference while NAGDA Naylee on behalf of the children thanked the organisers and promised that the children will keep to the commitments which are the out come of the conference.



NINDORERA Guy reading the final Communiqué

UNEP regional Representative, Mrs Angele LUH on her part lauded the efforts made by the Cameroonian government to make this conference a success and stressed on the importance of such gathering at regional level.



Mrs Angele LUH

In his closing statement, H.E HELE Pierre, Minister of Environment and Nature Protection for Cameroon stressed that the good gesture of planting trees in the town was to be emulated and replicated in other provinces of Cameroon.



Mr HELE Pierre, Minister of Environment and Nature Protection

He underlined the need for the participants to be worthy “*ambassadors of the environment*” by perpetuating such activities in their various schools or organisation upon return. Concluding that the recommendations read in the final communiqué were going to be forwarded to the Head of Government, he thanked all those who sponsored the conference. The closing ceremony was also attended by H.E NANA ABOUBAKAR Djalloh, Minister Delegate for the Environment and Mr YANG Philemon, Minister Deputy Secretary General at the Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon.

X CONCLUSION

This conference being the first of its kind to be organised in the African soil could be said to have achieved its initial objectives. Moreover, it is clear that the commitments taken in the course of the conference will trigger a new dynamism among participants who are determined to practice what they preach in order to have an opportunity to participate in the next International TUNZA conference in Norway. It is worth noting however that such conferences are to be encouraged as they help to stimulate environmental awareness among decision makers and among the children who are the decision makers of tomorrow.

ANNEXES

**UNEP REGIONAL CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA
YAOUNDE, CAMEROON
30 July to 2 August 2007**

THEME: "PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH"

Day Zero, 29 July 2007 (Sunday)

REGISTRATION DAY

8:00 – 17:00	Arrival and Registration
10:00 – 11:00	Organizers' meeting
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Preparing the children's exhibition at Conference
14:00 – 15:00	Facilitators' meeting at the conference venue
16:00 – 18:00	Orientation of Participants
18:30 - 20:00	Dinner
20:00 – 21:00	Chaperones' meeting

Day One, Monday, 30 July 2007

CLIMATE CHANGE & FOOD SECURITY

6:30 – 7:30	Breakfast
7:00 – 8:00	Transportation of participants by Bus to Conference venue
8:30	Arrival of invited guests Arrival of members of government and the diplomatic corps Arrival of the Prime Minister, Head of Government
9:45 – 11:00	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ National anthem – welcome song▪ Welcome address by the Government Delegate to the Yaounde City Council▪ Short film on pollution in the world (10mins)▪ Paper on a major environmental concern presented by the representative of the Executive Director of UNEP▪ Opening remarks by the Prime Minister, Head of Government▪ Family photograph▪ Cocktail
11:30 – 12:30	Briefing on the UNEP Tunza Programme and introduction of Africa Junior Board members
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch

13:30 – 14:30	Keynote speech on Climate Change (UNEP)
14:30 – 15:30	Presentations from children on environmental projects
15:30 – 17:00	Workshops on Climate Change and food security (Suggested topics)
	1. Climate change, its global effects and effects for Africa, what can we do? (Focal point)
	2. Ozzy Ozone, green house effect, Global warming, Ozone layer (Focal point)
	3. Food security
	4. Sustainable agriculture, soil treatment
	5. Renewable energy
17:00 – 17:30	Information on Action Group Meeting – (by sub-regions)
17:30	Transportation to the Hotel
18:00 – 19:00	Games/Chaperones' meeting
19:00 – 20:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Movie "An inconvenient Truth" or any other
21: 30	Bedtime

Day Two, Tuesday, 31 July 2007

FOREST & BIODIVERSITY

6:30 – 7:30	Breakfast
7:30	Transportation to Conference venue
8:30 – 10:30	Tree planting ceremony (Mont Febe road)
10:30 – 12:30 School)	Study tour, guided tour to Mbalmayo (Mbalmayo Forestry School)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:30	introductory paper: Children's Presentations
	Workshops on Forest and Biodiversity (Suggested topics)
	1. Overview of Forests in Cameroon
	2. Afforestation activities
	3. Chaperones workshop
16:30	Depart for the Hotel
17:00 – 18:00	Action Group meeting
17:00 – 18:00	Chaperons' meeting
18:30 – 20:00	Diner

20:15 – 21:15 Cultural Evening
21:30 Bedtime

Day Three, Wednesday, 1 August 2007

WATER & SANITATION/WASTE MANAGEMENT

6:30 – 7:30 Breakfast
7:30 – 8:30 Transportation to Conference Venue
8:30 – 9:00 Keynote Speech By Mrs. Donna Goodman, UNICEF
9:00 – 10:00 Children's Presentations on water and sanitation activities
10:00 – 12:00 Workshop on Water & Sanitation/Waste Management
(suggested topics)

1. Wastewater treatment: Purification
2. Water supply in urban and rural areas
3. Hygiene and sanitation, prevention skills – UNICEF Cameroon and HYSACAM

12:00 – 12:30 Free time and visit to the children's exhibition

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Workshop on Water & Sanitation/Waste Management continued

14:00 – 16:00 Waste management: recycle, reuse, reduce, repair

4. Waste management: techniques – Environmental NGO - Cameroon
5. Chaperones' workshop

16:00 Depart for the Hotel

16:00 – 18:00 shopping time/free time

18:30 – 20:00 Dinner

20:00 – 21:00 Action Group Meeting
20:00 – 21:00 Meetings with chaperones
21:00 Bedtime

Day Four, Thursday, 2 August 2007

DRYLANDS & DESERTS

6:30 – 7:30 Breakfast

7:30 Transportation to the Conference venue

8:30 – 9:00 Keynote speech
9:00 – 10:00 Children's Presentations (about 15 children)

10:00 – 12:00 Workshop on Dry lands and Deserts (Mr. Wagnoun: Focal Point)
(Suggested topics)

1. Desertification in Africa: Consequences (poverty, hunger)

2. Farmer's situation
3. Soil management
4. Preventive skills_and reversal methods
5. Public awareness strategies

12:00-12:30	Closing of the Exhibition
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	Briefing on the 2008 International Children's Conference on the Environment in Norway
15:00	Arrival of invited guests
15:15 :	Reading of final communiqué
15:35	Launch of an Africa Children's Environment Network
16:00	Presentation of certificates to Participants
16:30	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vote of thanks by Children's Representative ▪ UNDP/UNEP, ▪ Minister of Environment and Nature Protection
17:00:	Closing cocktail, song, drama performance and fashion show

Day Five, Friday, 3 August 2007

6:30 – 8:00	Breakfast
9:00 – 12:00	Workshop on UNEP –UNICEF environmental education module – by Mrs. Donna Goodman UNICEF and Theodore Oben, UNEP (Conference participants)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch

**UNEP African Regional Children's Conference on the
Environment, Yaounde, Cameroon
Conference Centre, 30 July to 2 August 2007**

THEME: PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The first African Regional Children's Conference on the Environment was held at the Yaounde Conference Center from 30 July to 2 August 2007. The opening ceremony that was attended by Dr Nana Aboubakar Djalloh, Minister Delegate at the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, H.E. ADOUM Gargoum, Minister Delegate at the Ministry of External relations, was presided at by His Excellency Jules Doret Ndongu, Secretary General at the Prime Minister's Office.

The objectives of this regional conference were to create a platform that would enable the children to protect the environment, exchange their experiences and worries on environmental issues and to build their capacities as well as those of their chaperons on sustainable development issues and to cultivate lasting friendship ties. The first edition of this children's regional conference is to prepare African children for the children's international conference slated for Norway in June 2008, within the purview of the UNEP TUNZA program.

The 200 participants drawn from 35 African countries and Norway listened, with keen interest, to speeches from the representative of the Government Delegate to the Yaounde City Council, the UNEP representative and the Secretary General at the Prime Minister's Office.

The Government Delegate's representative, after tradition and decorum, outlined some of the main environmental problems confronting

the city of Yaounde and presented some of the measures that are being taken to combat these problems. He was equally pleased with the fact that the children had included the planting of some 5,000 trees in Yaounde in their agenda as contribution to the fight against climate change.

The UNEP representative, on his part, after expressing satisfaction with the fact that Cameroon had been chosen to host this conference, because the country is putting in so much effort to preserve its rich forests and biodiversity, remarked that the theme for the children's conference was not only suitable for a children's conference, but was a topical issue for each and everyone. Then, he concluded that important adjustments made should be reflected in our lives through little actions which can make a difference

In his opening speech, the Secretary General at the Prime Minister's Office recalled the philosophy underlying the organization of the conference, before highlighting the importance of the main theme- - "Practice what you Preach." He particularly emphasized that the message that the children are sending to us through their appeal launched as a resolution emanating from conferences of this nature should bring us to reflect deeply and act by adopting new strategies that take environmental protection into consideration

The discussions, which were mostly done in workshops, opened with an information session on the UNEP TUNZA program and the presentation of the Junior Board Members for Africa by Mr OBEN Theodore. The discussions were centered on the following themes:

- Climate Change and Food Security ;
- Forests and biodiversity
- Water, sanitation and waste management ; and
- Dry lands and deserts.

Concerning climate change and food security, the discussions focused on climate change, its effects in the world at large and Africa in particular and what could be done ; Ozzy Ozone; green house effects; global warming; the ozone layer; food security; sustainable agriculture; water and soil conservation; renewable energy as well as on experiences presented by the children.

With regard to forests and biodiversity, discussions started with a tree planting exercise (on the road leading to Mont FEBE), followed by a guided tour to Mbalmayo, precisely, the Mbalmayo Forestry School. After this tour, discussions centered on the overview of forests in Cameroon.

In relation to water, sanitation and waste management, discussions centered on environmental education, waste water treatment, urban and rural area water supply, hygiene and sanitation, experiences in the area of waste management by HYSACAM.

Finally, concerning dry lands and deserts, presentations centered on desertification in Africa: consequences (poverty, famine); the situation of farmers; soil management; knowledge in the area of prevention and inversion methods as well as public sensitization strategies.

Moreover, discussions at the conference were interspersed with a cultural evening, which portrayed the rich biodiversity and skills of Cameroonians and other nationals.

After the Tunza African Regional Children's Conference on the Environment, participants committed to:

- 1 All have a goal of planting a particular number of trees to contribute to the UNEP Billion Tree Campaign. Also each delegate must plant at least 10 trees between now and June 2008 and at least 10 trees every year after the Conference in Norway;
- 2 Raise environmental awareness in their area or community through stories, drama and dance;

- 3 Ask their parents to dig a deep hole in the ground to throw what ever kitchen waste that comes from their kitchen, e.g. orange peels to make rich manure for soil that is good for plants;
- 4 Encourage their local Radio and TV stations to have programs for the environment animated by children;
- 5 Join an active environmental club, if they do not have one, they can always ask their head teacher or parents to start one.

The children will tell the world through UNEP about their activities to implement these commitments. They were advised to simply send pictures accompanied with information on their activities to:

www.unep.org/tunza/children/bulletin_board/default.asp

or

children.youth@unep.org

Done at Yaounde, 2nd August 2007

The Participants:

**DISCOURS DE BIENVENUE DE M. LE DELEGUE DU GOUVERNEMENT AUPRES
DE LA COMMUNAUTE URBAINE DE YAOUNDE A L'OCCASION DU SOMMET
REGIONAL DES ENFANTS SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT
(PALAIS DES CONGRES 30 JUILLET 2007)**

Excellence M. le Premier Ministre,
Excellences Messieurs et Mesdames les Ministres,
Excellence Mrs/Mmes les Représentants du Corps Diplomatique et Organisations Internationales,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Distingués Invités,
Chers Participants.

C'est un insigne honneur pour moi d'accueillir ce jour au nom des populations de la cité capitale du Cameroun, Afrique en miniature, les participants à cette importante Conférence Régionale Africaine des enfants sur l'Environnement.

La ville de Yaoundé va vibrer pendant quatre jours au rythme de ce Sommet qui, une fois de plus, démontre l'importance de la protection et de la préservation de l'Environnement en général et le rôle que nous, citoyens de la terre, sommes appelés à jouer dans l'amélioration de notre cadre de vie et notre bien-être (des populations).

Je vous souhaite donc la bienvenue et un heureux séjour parmi nous.

La cité hospitalière de Yaoundé, ville aux sept collines, regorge d'énormes ressources naturelles. Cependant, elle n'est pas épargnée par des problèmes environnementaux. La croissance démographique rapide, l'habitat anarchique, la gestion des déchets, l'urbanisation rapide, la pollution, le déboisement des flancs de collines qui provoque l'érosion et la dégradation de la biodiversité, sont parmi les défis majeurs qui interpellent notre capitale. A ceci s'ajoute le manque de prise de conscience de la plupart des habitants sur la gravité de l'inaction dans ce processus de dégradation de l'environnement (pour la protection de l'environnement).

Pour faire face à ces différents défis, la Communauté Urbaine de Yaoundé déploie de grands efforts dans la collecte des ordures solides et liquides et veille à leur gestion. Des actions sont prises en vue du reboisement des collines et la plantation des arbres aux bords des chaussées. En collaboration avec les différents acteurs dans le domaine de la conservation de l'environnement, la communauté urbaine de Yaoundé mène actuellement une grande campagne de sensibilisation destinée à créer dans chacun de ses habitants, le réflexe du geste qui sauve qui est la protection de son environnement immédiat.

Par conséquent, nous nous réjouissons de trouver des jeunes réunis pour se concerter sur les questions environnementales que rencontrent les pays africains, bref, pour trouver des solutions à l'avenir de la vie sur Terre.

Conscient de l'influence que les enfants peuvent avoir sur les adultes, je suis convaincu que les résultats de vos débats permettront aux leaders et populations africaines toutes entières de mener des actions respectueuses de l'environnement.

Je suis particulièrement heureux du fait que dans votre programme, vous ayez inclus la plantation d'arbres. L'importance de l'arbre comme moyen de lutte contre les effets des changements climatiques, la perte de la biodiversité et l'avancée du désert

resteront gravées dans la mémoire des citoyens de Yaoundé à travers votre geste. Cette œuvre que vous commencez aujourd'hui sera renforcée à travers le Programme de Reboisement des flancs des collines que la communauté urbaine de Yaoundé a mis sur pied. A travers ce forum, je lance un vibrant appel à la communauté nationale et internationale afin qu'elle fournisse l'appui nécessaire aux différentes initiatives entreprises au niveau local pour sauver le monde des graves menaces qui pèsent sur l'environnement.

Quant à vous chers jeunes, nous suivront avec beaucoup d'attention vos travaux et en attendant les résultats qui découleront de ces échéances, nous prenons l'engagement ferme de mettre en œuvre les recommandations issues de ce Sommet pour la mise en œuvre d'un processus de Développement durable.

Vive la coopération Internationale

Vive le Cameroun

Je vous remercie pour votre attention

**CONFERENCE REGIONALE AFRICAINE DES ENFANTS SUR
L'ENVIRONNEMENT
PALAIS DES CONGRES-YAOUNDE
30 juillet 2007**

**DISCOURS D'OUVERTURE DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL
DES SERVICE DU PREMIER MINISTRE**

*Excellences Monsieur le Ministre Délégué auprès du Ministre de
l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature,*

*Monsieur le Représentant du Directeur Régional du Programme des Nations
Unies pour l'Environnement,*

*Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs des Missions Diplomatiques et
Représentants des Organisations Internationales,*

*Monsieur le Délégué du Gouvernement auprès de la Communauté Urbaine de
Yaoundé,*

Distingués Jeunes Invités,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Chers jeunes Participants,

C'est un grand honneur pour moi, doublé d'un immense privilège, de présider ce jour, au nom du Premier Ministre, Chef du Gouvernement, la cérémonie d'ouverture de la première Conférence Régionale Africaine des Enfants sur l'Environnement organisée avec l'appui du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (PNUE).

Permettez-moi à cette occasion, de vous souhaiter à toutes et à tous, une chaleureuse et cordiale bienvenue au Cameroun, l'Afrique en Miniature, dans cette magnifique salle du Palais des Congrès, et de dire très sincèrement merci à toutes les délégations africaines et européennes (notamment celle de la Norvège) qui ont bien voulu accepter de rehausser de leur présence cette importante rencontre internationale.

J'adresse par ailleurs tous mes sincères remerciements à Monsieur le Délégué du Gouvernement auprès de la Communauté Urbaine de Yaoundé, pour les paroles aimables de bienvenue qu'il a bien voulu prononcer à mon endroit, à celui des participants et au Chef de l'Etat, Son Excellence Paul BIYA.

Avant toute chose, permettez-moi de rappeler la philosophie qui sous-tend l'organisation de la présente conférence. L'une des recommandations issues de la Conférence de la Terre de Rio de Janeiro en 1992 pour un développement durable de la planète, concernait l'implication des jeunes pour susciter leur participation à la protection de l'environnement et à la prise des décisions environnementales. En effet, c'est lors de cette rencontre internationale que la participation des jeunes dans le processus décisionnel des actions en faveur de la protection de l'environnement a été prise en compte dans l'Agenda 21. L'organisation du Sommet régional africain actuel est le résultat.

La Conférence Régionale africaine des Enfants sur l'Environnement dont les travaux s'ouvrent ce jour, avec pour thème central « **Pratique ce que tu prêches** », a pour objectif principal de préparer les jeunes participants africains ici présents, pour le Sommet Mondial des Enfants sur l'Environnement dit « *Conférence internationale des enfants TUNZA* » prévu en Norvège en juin 2008.

Je suis particulièrement heureux du fait que le Cameroun ait été choisi pour abriter une rencontre d'une telle envergure internationale.

En effet, notre pays par la diversité de ses écosystèmes, est considéré en général comme une Afrique en miniature. Les nombreuses actions entreprises tant au niveau national qu'international dans le domaine de la conservation de la Biodiversité, de la lutte contre les changements climatiques et de la désertification bref de la préservation de l'environnement en général, montrent tout l'intérêt que le Gouvernement du Cameroun attache aux questions environnementales.

Sur le Plan International,

Notre pays a adhéré à plusieurs Conventions internationales dans le domaine de l'environnement et a adopté des instruments légaux qui oeuvrent en faveur de la conservation des ressources naturelles, notamment :

- La Convention sur la Diversité Biologique;
- La Convention des Nations Unies sur les Changements Climatiques;
- La Convention des Nations Unies sur la Lutte contre la Désertification;
- La Convention de Ramsar sur les Zones Humides,
- La Convention de Stockholm sur les Polluants Organiques Persistants;
- La Convention Internationale de Rotterdam sur le Commerce des Produits Chimiques Dangereux;
- La Convention sur le Commerce international des Espèces Menacées de la faune et de la flore (CITES);
- Le Protocole de Cartagena sur la prévention des risques Biotechnologiques;
- Le Protocole de Montréal sur la protection de la couche d'ozone,
- L'Accord sur l'Organisation Internationale du Bois tropical pour ne citer que celles-là.

Le Cameroun s'est donné comme priorité le suivi des activités qui visent la mise en oeuvre au niveau national de toutes ces conventions en vue d'intervertir leur rôle efficace dans la prévention des atteintes à l'environnement.

Aussi, conscient de l'importance de la coopération régionale et sous-régionale dans le domaine de la préservation de l'environnement et de la gestion durable des ressources naturelles, le Cameroun a également initié et pris part à de nombreux fora internationaux :

- Le Sommet des Chefs d'Etats Africains sur les Ecosystèmes des forêts du bassin du Congo de Yaoundé en 1999, d'où la Déclaration de Yaoundé qui par la suite a été adoptée comme Résolutions des Nations Unies lors de sa 54^{ème} session;
- Participation au Sommet de Johannesburg sur le Développement Durable (Rio+10 en 2002),
- La tenue de la Conférence africaine sur la gouvernance dans le domaine de la législation forestière (AFLEG) en 2003;

- La participation au processus de l'adoption de la composante environnementale du NEPAD et à la conférence des bailleurs y afférente;
- La participation active dans toutes les conférences des parties des différentes conventions multilatérales dans le domaine de l'environnement notamment celles relatives à la Biodiversité, aux changements climatiques, à la lutte contre la désertification, Protocole de Montréal sur les substances appauvrissant la couche d'Ozone,
- La ratification du traité créant la Commission des Forêts du Bassin du Congo dont le siège est au Cameroun ;
- La participation à plusieurs programmes et initiatives régionaux tels que
 - *Projet du grand Ecosystème marin du golfe de Guinée;*
 - *Le Programme régional de l'information et de gestion environnementale Management (PRGIE);*
 - La commission du Bassin du lac Tchad ,
 - L'autorité du Bassin du Niger (NBA),
 - La création des aires protégées transfrontalières (la Tri-sangha) ;
 - L'adoption des différents Lois et Décrets tels que la loi-cadre relative à la protection de l'environnement, la loi portant régime des Forêts, de la Faune et des Pêches, la loi sur la biosécurité, la loi sur les semences ; etc.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Le rôle des enfants dans la promotion d'un développement durable est évident. Non seulement ils hériteront de la responsabilité de protéger la terre, mais ils constituent dans de nombreux pays en développement près de la moitié de la population. Ils sont de surcroît, dans les pays en développement comme dans les pays industrialisés, très vulnérables aux effets de la dégradation de l'environnement. Ils sont également d'ardents défenseurs de la cause écologique à travers la souplesse de leur âge et actions. Toute action visant à améliorer l'environnement qui se veut viable doit donc dûment tenir compte de leurs intérêts propres. La dégradation de l'environnement constitue alors un défi majeur à relever par les populations actuelles et de ce fait, aucune tranche de la population ne doit être en reste.

Pour nous les adultes ici présents, nous devons nous interroger sur la qualité de l'environnement que nous léguerons à nos enfants car nos activités quotidiennes ne cessent de dégrader la nature. Le message que les enfants nous envoient à travers leur cri d'alarme lancé comme résolution émanant des conférences de ce genre doit nous amener à réfléchir profondément pour agir en adoptant des nouvelles attitudes qui prennent en compte la protection de l'environnement.

Chers jeunes participants,

Votre Sommet se tient au Cameroun au moment où à travers la politique de la bonne gouvernance, le Cameroun a atteint le point d'achèvement et la lutte contre la pauvreté est amorcée. Le gouvernement camerounais vous assure qu'il ne ménagera aucun effort pour que vos travaux puissent se dérouler dans de très bonnes conditions et que les recommandations y découlant puissent être utilisées à bon escient, car l'encadrement des jeunes et la protection de l'environnement constituent le cheval de bataille de la politique prônée par son Excellence Paul Biya, Chef de l'Etat camerounais. La cérémonie de plantation de plus de cinq mille arbres qui fait partie du programme de cette conférence, et à laquelle vous êtes vivement

conviés, est une consécration de cette nouvelle donne de la lutte contre la dégradation des ressources naturelles. J'ose croire que cette action sera perpétuée une fois rentrés dans vos pays différents respectifs.

Je saisis l'occasion pour remercier la communauté internationale et nationale et en particulier le Programme des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement et le *Young Agenda 21* de la Norvège pour l'appui donné au bon déroulement des présentes assises.

Nos remerciements s'adressent également aux responsables du Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature, aux membres du Comité d'Organisation dont les efforts conjoints ont abouti à la tenue des présentes assises.

Tout en invitant les jeunes participants à se consacrer pleinement aux travaux de la conférence, au nom du Premier Ministre Chef du Gouvernement, je déclare ouverts les travaux du Sommet Régional Africain des Enfants sur l'Environnement au Cameroun pour que,

Vive la coopération internationale,

Vive la jeunesse pour la protection de l'environnement,

Vive le Cameroun,

Je vous remercie de votre bien aimable attention !!!!

CONFERENCE REGIONALE AFRICAINE DES ENFANTS SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

DISCOURS DE CLOTURE DE MONSIEUR HELE PIERRE

MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LA PROTECTION DE LA NATURE

**Excellences les Membres du Corps Diplomatique,
Distingués invités,
Mesdames, Messieurs,
Chers jeunes enfants,**

Excellence Messieurs les Membres du Corps Diplomatique,
Distingués invités,
Mesdames et Messieurs,
Chers jeunes enfants,

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi de me retrouver parmi vous cet après midi à la fin de vos travaux. Commencée le lundi 30 juillet 2007, la Conférence Africaine des Enfants sur l'Environnement a permis aux populations de la capitale camerounaise de vibrer au rythme de vos travaux. Vous avez participé à l'opération dite « *Billion Tree Planting Campaign* » qui vous a permis de planter plus de 4000 arbres contribuant ainsi avec votre action à aider le Gouvernement Camerounais dans son objectif de planter quarante cinq millions d'arbres pour lutter contre les effets des changements climatiques et contre la désertification et la perte de la biodiversité. Je puis vous rassurer que cette opération sera répercutée au niveau de chacune des provinces de la République du Cameroun.

Je vous invite par conséquent une fois rentrés dans vos différents établissements scolaires ou dans vos organisations respectives de continuer cette activité. Vous avez également effectué une visite d'étude dans la Réserve Forestière de l'Ecole Nationale des Eaux et Forêts de Mbalmayo, ce qui vous a permis d'apprécier les actions que le Gouvernement du Cameroun mène pour la protection de la couverture végétale de notre pays.

Vos travaux qui ont été appuyés par des experts vous ont permis de toucher du doigt les questions d'actualité qui constituent les défis majeurs de la protection de l'Environnement dans le monde en général, et en Afrique en particulier. Le programme de vos travaux si riches et combien exaltants, a également aménagé un temps qui vous a permis de visiter le Centre Commercial notamment l'Artisanat et le Marché Central de Yaoundé. Toutes ces expériences vous seront utiles dans votre carrière des « *Jeunes Ambassadeurs de l'Environnement* » que vous êtes. Vous avez le devoir de les répercuter aux autres qui n'ont pas eu la chance comme vous de participer à cette importante rencontre. Il est aussi à noter que nombreux d'entre vous prendront part au Sommet Mondial des Enfants sur l'Environnement prévu l'année prochaine (juin 2008 en Norvège). C'est le lieu de vous féliciter vous tous jeunes filles et garçons ici présents pour les efforts que vous avez déployés à travers votre participation très active aux différentes activités contenues dans le programme de cette conférence. A travers le réseau que vous venez de créer, je suis persuadé que vous allez établir des liens solides et échanger des informations sur vos activités menées dans vos différents pays et provinces respectifs.

Quant à votre communiqué final dont vous venez de donner lecture, je puis vous rassurer que je me chargerai de le transmettre fidèlement à Son Excellence

Monsieur le Premier Ministre, Chef du Gouvernement du Cameroun. Je suis persuadé que le Gouvernement Camerounais ne ménagera aucun effort pour sa mise en œuvre. Vos recommandations adressées à Monsieur le Secrétaire Général des Nations sur les changements climatiques se basent sur des questions préoccupantes dont la plantation d'arbres est l'une des solutions préconisée.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, Chers jeunes enfants

Nous sommes conscients de quelques défaillances constatées dans l'organisation de la présente conférence. Nous nous en excusons. Permettez moi au nom du Gouvernement Camerounais de remercier une fois de plus les différents sponsors qui, à travers leurs gestes très appréciables, ont permis au Cameroun d'atteindre l'objectif de l'organisation du présent Sommet.

Nos remerciements s'adressent en particulier :

- au Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (PNUE);
- à *Young Agenda 21 de la Norvège* ;
- à l'UNESCO ;
- à l'UNICEF ;
- à l'ANAFOR ;
- au CIFOR ;
- à la SONARA ;
- à la SEMME ;
- à la CDC et j'en passe.

Je remercie également le Comité National d'Organisation de cette conférence qui a permis d'atteindre les objectifs du Sommet.

Chers participants et chers enfants,

Je vous prie d'avoir toujours présent à l'esprit la notion de la gestion durable de l'environnement qui grandit aussi bien les intérêts des populations présentes que ceux des générations futures.

Pour terminer, je vous souhaite un très bon voyage de retour dans vos pays, et provinces respectifs.

Sur ce, je déclare clos les travaux du Sommet Régional Africain des Enfants sur l'Environnement au Cameroun pour que ;

- Vive la jeunesse pour l'environnement ;
- Vive la coopération internationale ;
- Vive le Cameroun avec son Président Son Excellence Monsieur Paul BIYA.

Je vous remercie de votre bienveillante attention.

