

## REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LOCALIZING THE AFRICAN UNION CONTINENTAL FRAMEWORK ON YOUTH PEACE AND SECURITY (AU CFYPS) IN CAMEROON



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**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Symposium on Localizing the African Union Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security (AU-CFYPS) is an activity in the Amplify Peace Initiative which seeks to raise awareness, build the capacity, collect public opinion and secure buy-in from young people, CSOs, international organisation, policymakers and government stakeholders from the 10 regions of Cameroon on the implementation of the youth peace and security agenda in Cameroon. It was organised by Local Youth Corner Cameroon in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education and the Cameroon Coalition on Youth Peace and Security, UNOY and CYPAN. The Symposium was funded by African Union, Canadian High Commission in Cameroon and UNFPA- Cameroon.

The Symposium was a 3-day hybrid event held at the Chambre d'Agriculture, Yaoundé from the 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021. It mobilised 100 persons; 40 online and 60 in person (70 young people 30 development partners from government, NGO, INGOs and International organisations) to build their capacity and raise their awareness on the AU-CFYPS.

Through interactive discursions and panel presentations, the Symposium triggered deep conversations between the participants and key experts on the peace and security situation of Cameroon and how the YPS agenda could be leveraged to amplify youth efforts in building peace. In attendance among the speakers was Dr Rhuks from the AU Youth for Peace Programme who highlighted the interest of the African Union in amplifying youth efforts for peace in Cameroon and supporting the process towards developing a strategy and National Action on YPS. Similarly, H.E Richard Bale, the Canadian High Commissioner to Cameroon in his presentation articulated the commitment of the Canadian government to promote peace in Cameroon with a key focus on putting young boys and girls at the forefront of the process. Our activity evaluations during and after this 3-day event showed that the symposium improved the knowledge of the participants especially the young people on the YPS agenda and provided them with tools on how to build peace. The participants attested that the symposium allowed them to build trust among their peers and find common ground with other development stakeholders on how to promote youth participation in peacebuilding.

Among the key recommendations during this Symposium was the need for a nation-wide consultation to target more young people and stakeholders from across the country. The participants also insisted on the need for development stakeholders and government to make commitments to the agenda, development of a national strategy for implementation and adoption of a National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATION & ACCRONYMS

AFRICAN UNION	<b>AU</b>
AFRICAN UNION CONTINENTAL FRAMEWORK ON YOUTH PEACE AND SECURITY	<b>AUCYPS</b>
CAMEROON NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL	<b>CNJC</b>
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION	<b>CSO</b>
LOCAL YOUTH CORNER CAMEROON	<b>LOYOC</b>
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN	<b>NAP</b>
UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND	<b>UNFPA</b>
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM	<b>WILPF</b>
YOUTH PEACE AND SECURITY	<b>YPS</b>

## INTRODUCTION

This write-up is written to provide a detailed narrative report of how the 3day Symposium on Localizing the African Union Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security (AU-CFYPS) in Cameroon. This report captures the entire agenda and unfolding of activities, the various presentations carried out during the conference.

The report also captures the perceptions obtained by the young people who attended this event before and after the activity with the use of Pre & Post Tests as well as Activity Evaluation Forms and Interviews. Also, the successes and challenges faced and proposed recommendations are mentioned in this narrative report.

**Main Objective:** The initiative sought to mobilize young people, development stakeholders, policymakers and government stakeholders to build capacity, raise awareness and develop a roadmap for the localization of the African Union Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security (AU CFYPS) in Cameroon.

### **Specific Objectives:**

- i. Enhance the knowledge of young people, government, policymakers and development stakeholders across the 10 regions of Cameroon on the AU CFYPS
- ii. Engage young people, government, policymakers and other development stakeholders in consultations for the development of a road map for the National Action Plan.

## **PART I**

### **ACTIVITY NARRATIVE**

This session provides a detailed narrative overview of the 9 panel and conversational sessions held during the symposium. As well as the group work session that built on the 5 pillars of the AUCYPS (Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnership and Collaboration and Disengagement and Reintegration). It captures major key highlights of the different panel sessions and group work, key recommendations and learnings such as the need to establish a Nation Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security in Cameroon, investing in youth capacity for peace and fostering intergenerational collaboration towards the YPS among others.

#### **DAY 1: Thursday, 28th of October 2021**

##### **OPENING**

Kick-off began with the singing of the Cameroon National Anthem in French and English, followed by a welcome word from Mr Achaleke Christian, Executive Director at Local Youth Corner Cameroon (LOYOC) who urged participants to give in their best ideas and conversations throughout the symposium to ensure a solid start of the process of establishing a National Action Plan for Youth Peace and Security in Cameroon, under the auspices of the African Union Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security (AU CFYPS).

This was followed by a highlight goodwill message and summary presentation of the AU continental framework on YPS by Dr Rhuks Ako African Union Commissioner. H.E. Richard



Bale, Canadian High Commissioner who had beforehand exchanged casually with participants on the role and participation of young people in peace and security processes, at

At this point, he shared an engaging and encouraging opening remark as he applauded this initiative and encouraged participants to engage seriously in the sessions designed.



*Welcome, Address by Canadian High Commissioner H.E Richard Bale (left) and Dr Rhuks Ako, Senior Analyst of the African Union (Right)*

The welcome note from Madam Fadimatou National President CNJC followed at this point with a powerful encouragement to her peers to keep doing more for eventual peace in Cameroon. In her very emotional address, she urged young people to be moved by the gruesome killings and sufferings happening in the conflict-hit regions of Cameroon and stay committed to achieving peace. This opening ceremony ended with family photos and a round of interviews.

## **DISCUSSION SESSIONS**

### **A. Panel Discussion on Situational analysis of Peace and Security in Cameroon'**

**Moderator:** Dr Sakah Benard.

**Panel Speakers:** Prof. Wilibroad Dze-Ngwa and Prof. Anjoh Rose the Regional Councillor, North West Region.

**Discussion Highlights:** These speakers talked about challenges faced by young people in peacebuilding processes in Cameroon. They especially highlighted the low level of youth representation in peacebuilding Institutions that have been set up in recent times. They particularly encouraged young people to be more strategic in designing peacebuilding initiatives to ensure a more sustainable outcome. Both Professors recommended young people stay around the corridors of





*First Panel Discussion with Prof. Rose and Prof. Dze-Ngwa facilitated by Dr Saka Bernard*

power and endeavour to be informed on decisions that are taken concerning peace and security and take strategic action per the information received.

## **B. Discussion Session on the stories and experiences of youth-led peace and security initiatives in Cameroon.**

**Coordinator:** Mr Achaleke Christian

**Discussion Highlights:** Young people shared various individual stories of how state institutions tend to not be very welcoming and supportive to youth-led activities despite the efforts put in by young people to get authorization and collaboration support from state institutions. However, the session ended with participants recognizing that young people had to explore all avenues to gain support from the state as this is the only way through which their interventions can be sustainable.

## **C. Discussion session on ensuring active collaboration between state and youth actors.**

**Coordinator:** Mr Sanda Umaru (Leader of the Association of Muslim Students)

**Discussions highlights:** Young people expressed themselves on the lack of collaboration between CSOs and other stakeholders and how these are a hindrance to lasting peace and security in Cameroon. Lack of funding to carry on collaborative peacebuilding initiatives is a major challenge to collaboration between CSOs. As for recommendations, the female representative of the Mother of Hope Initiative suggested an inclusive policy that encloses all CSOs participation in nation-building and CSOs engaging in mobilizing communities and funds to foster nation-building. They equally recommended a proper sensitization on state nation and peacebuilding policies, instruments so as to properly apply them to CSOs initiatives, projects or activities, as a means of solidifying collaboration processes between state and CSO actors both parties. Another recommendation was for stakeholders to engage in building capacity, advocacy on key issues and policy recommendations related to peacebuilding in Cameroon. The issue of trust among CSOs was raised to recommend trust-building initiatives and collaboration.

#### **D. Presentation Empathy within the National Action Plan**

**Speaker:** Miss Dione Sharon

**Discussion Highlights:** Miss Dione engaged the audience of young people under the subject of Empathy within the National Action Plan. She conducted practical illustrative exercises to show how collaboration would be fruitful if all actors understood how similar they really were to each other.

After the lunch break, Mrs Wakuna Cynthia and Mr Achaleke Christian facilitated an engaging open discussion on the subject of how to ensure Diverse Views and groups fit into the National Action Plan on YPS. Most of the audience agreed that to properly ensure every opinion is heard and considered, initiatives would have to involve all entities and institutions even at the local levels.



## **DAY TWO: Friday, 29th of October 2021**

Day 2 of the Symposium kicked off with a recap of the previous day and an evaluation of the discussions from the previous day. After a short coffee break, participants were introduced to the next speaker.

### **E. What Localizing YPS in Cameroon entails.**

**Speaker:** Mr Saji Prelis (Co-Chair of Global Coalition on YPS)

**Discussion Highlights:** His online presentation focused on developing national policies and national projects that will enhance peace, determining the aspirations of women, correcting existing priorities and understanding that NAP has procedures to follow and vital elements to take into consideration. Mr Saji encouraged this set of Cameroonian youth by highlighting other countries that have successfully implemented action plans on YPS such as Nigeria, Kosovo, Ireland, and the Philippines have YPS actions operating in their countries.



*Online Presentation with Saji Prelis on What Localizing*



*YPS in Cameroon entails.*

He reminded participants that the justice sector, human rights departments are areas where youth actors could implement the action plan.



## F. The Importance of the NAP on YPS in Cameroon. Lessons Learned from the Process of the NAPS on WPS in Cameroon

**Speaker:** Mrs Sylvie Jaqueline Ndongmo (Director of WILPF Cameroon)

**Discussion Highlights:** Talking from her experience from the process of establishing NAP on Women Peace and Security, her online presentation urged participants to understand that we all have different roles and responsibilities towards the adoption of NAP on YPS which are equally important to consider. The role and responsibility of youth actors should be to mediate, mobilize resources, and be able to push forward policy implementation while on the other hand, the state, religious authorities, private individuals and enterprises should be able to support, orientate, offer resources to youth. She equally urged young people to monitor the evolution of their projects to their completion and be able to provide credible reports.

Young people ought to master and establish coordination mechanisms with youth-related ministries. Coordination mechanisms but these mechanisms must start from the base, local communities. Resource mobilization measures ought to make available funds for youth-led projects. Young people should adopt and maintain one common voice. Properly identify and analyse the key areas which are relevant to youths. Training of staff involved in developing the NAP on YPS, organizing advocacy with section heads to ensure that the process is successful.

## G. Panel Discussion on what should be the Priorities of Youth Peace and Security

**Moderator:** Jean Piere Loic Nkulu (PAYNCOP)

**Speakers:** Alain Thierry, Makembe (Plan International Cameroon), Zakaria Agana (Action for Peace and Development), Ngantchou K. Aldin (CNJC).

The moderator got his panel sharing on highlight points such as;

- Inclusive youth participation in Politics and Decision making in Cameroon
- The right of youth to exercise their rights without violence
- Priority of disengagement of ex-combatants, youth economic empowerment, women's rights

## H. Discussion on Developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for our NAP

**Speaker:** Ekoko Caroline M&E expert for Local Youth Corner Cameroon

**Discussion Highlights:** This session aimed at highlighting the role of M&E tools in the NAP, highlighting the role and responsibility of stakeholders and a suggested approach on how to develop the M \$ E plan. The speaker mentioned that the plan will help to clarify activities and outputs expected, identify how to monitor progress on priority aspects of the NAP, identify sources of information on progress – hopefully many already exist, set out the review process, who will review progress on planned activities, how often? The implementation of the M&E plan is the responsibility of all stakeholders. All parties have important roles to play in ensuring: Effective data collection, collation, analysis and reporting. The approach suggested by the presenter for the development of the M \$ E plan of the YPS NAP is outlined as follows;

- Select priority strategies and activities in the National Action Plan to be implemented first
- Identify a manageable number of indicators/measures of progress for these actions and sources
- Capture progress that may be happening in other projects and programs not directly under the Action Plan.
- Agree how often to monitor and review progress e.g. 6 monthly reviews against implementation plan, an annual review by the advisory committee, monitored monthly, quarterly, some bi-annually.
- As much as possible draw standard tools and information systems available.

## **I. Panel Discussion on Mobilizing Support from development stakeholders for YPS**

**Moderator:** Ngantchou K. Arden (CNJC)

**Speakers:** Lydie Mangele (UNFPA), Mrs Marie-Claire Mbatu

**Discussion Highlights:** These development stakeholders expatiate on strategies that young people could use to mobilize not just funds but valuable support that would permit the localization of the framework in Cameroon.

Both institutions enumerated a good number of youth-led CSOs that are already benefiting from their support. They emphasized the fact that young people should endeavour to be credible and accountable in initiatives and activities carried out.



*Stakeholders panel discussions.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Event participants were given numbers 1-5 and split up into 5 sub-groups according to the numbers they have received. Each group consisted of 6-10 participants with the aim of discussing the Participation of various stakeholders in implementing the Action Plans, Prevention in Youth Peace and Security, and Protection of various stakeholders, identifying potential Partners and Coordinating Collaboration between both parties, developing strategies to Disengage and Reintegrate vis-a-vis the National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security.

Worthy of note is the realisation that, in the development of these action plans on the different pillars, there exists a cross-cutting relation amongst all of these pillars. That is to say, some of the recommendations made to the pillars align to a higher degree and are also interdependent.

The 5 groups and recommendations made on each pillar are explained in what follows below;

### Group 1: PARTICIPATION

Led by **Mr Nsong Ronald (LOYOC Programmes Assistant)**, this group was made up of 7 people (4 women, 3 men) and together they developed the following action plan for the



NAP for Youth Peace and Security on the participation pillar. Some of the recommendations made in this group were;

- Cameroon Youths **MUST** develop a National Action Plan that will guide and ensure our meaningful participation in Peace-building processes as well as foster the Youth Peace and Security Agenda.
- *The Government of Cameroon and local authorities identified as key peace-building stakeholders MUST* establish mechanisms in the forms of focal points within their offices, that facilitate the meaningful engagement of youth in current and future **peace processes, including formal peace negotiations** from the local to national levels. These mechanisms need to ensure youth are engaged as equal partners and promote youth leadership.
- *The African Union and other international organizations* should **provide support to,**

**and partner with, youth-led organisations engaged in building peace** with a focus on capacity development **and skills transfer that will contribute to the meaningful engagement of youths in peace-building.**

- *Government should invest meaningfully towards the integration of peace education* that equips young people with the ability to engage constructively in civic leadership and social cohesion.;
- Young People Donors need to work with youth organisations to assess to what extent current funding structures meet real needs for youth in peacebuilding.

## Group 2: PROTECTION

This group was headed by *Nkulu Atangana Jean-Pierre Loic (PAYNCOP representative)* and the action plans developed was thanks to the active participation and engagement of 10 group members (6 men and 4 women) who made the following recommendations;

- Young people should do a national mapping of all community organizations and peacebuilders, to ensure tracking, follow-up and collaboration, especially within complex contexts. A green Number should be established to facilitate access and protection for all young peacebuilders.
- International organizations working with young peace-builders should make available resources to ensure their full protection during missions of any kind. These resources

should include capacity building on personal protection in complex contexts.

- The Government of Cameroon should put in place policies and service centres that protect and foster respect for the rights of young people engaged in peace-building within their communities, in line with international Human Rights. These should also include policies and penalties on all incidents of Gender-based violence against young peace-builders at local and national levels
- Young must be conscious of the insecurity existing within the scope of our work and must ensure transparency and neutrality across all engagement with conflicting parties. We must establish frontline personal protection measures for the implementation of the NAP in Cameroon.

### Group 3: PREVENTION

*Thelma Ringnwi Lambda (LOYOC M&E Assistant)* led the conversation around developing action plans on the Prevention Pillar for the creation of the NAP. Her team consisted of 10 group members and they developed the following action plans;

- Young peace-builders must engage in national awareness-raising on our varied contribution to the prevention and mitigation of violent extremism in our communities. We must call on our peers to take action towards conflict prevention at local and national levels.
- Young peace-builders must build on Social media as a tool to speak against and actions that promote any form of violence.
- Government and local authorities should establish policies that recognize and support the role young people especially young women play in the prevention of violent extremism in Cameroon. More efforts to eradicate all forms of discrimination against young women in their effort to prevent violent extremism must be done by local and national government authorities.
- Government, international and community leaders must ensure the inclusion of young people throughout research related to the prevention of violent extremism as key actors throughout research processes, to ensure their views as those at the crossroad of violent extremism are taken into full consideration. We young peace-builders must ensure in

research to identify push and pull factors of violent extremism in our communities, in order to provide relevant answers towards preventing and Countering violent extremism.

#### **Group 4: PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION**

This group, headed by ***Dione Sharon, LOYOC Program Manager*** was made up of 8 participants (4 men and 4 women). The action plans developed on this pillar include: -

- Young people must engage in a national mapping process to identify relevant stakeholders for the NAP, raise awareness and advocate for their full collaboration towards the NAP.
- Government and international stakeholders identified as key to the success of the NAP must set up focal points to facilitate partnership, effective communication and mutual understanding between them and young peace-builders.
- The National media should set up platforms to highlight content on the active participation of young people in peace processes in Cameroon in an effort to counter hate, promote peace education
- International organizations must ensure the active participation of young people from design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and learning of peace processes in the country. These youths must be considered partners and not just beneficiaries.
- Government, International organizations and peace-building CSOs must establish an elaborate coordination mechanism that is inclusive and takes into account the varying roles of each party ensures bottom-up and top-down reporting.

#### **Group 5: DISENGAGEMENT AND REINTEGRATION**

Led by ***KUM Desmond (LOYOC Fellow)*** and it had a total number of 8 participants. They recommended that: -

- Government should valorise and integrate Youth-led formal and informal de-radicalization, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration processes through consultancies and ensure their active participation in all the processes.
- Government should ensure that promised socio-economic opportunities for the reintegration of youths dis-engaged from the armed criminal or extremist groups are

fully implemented.

- International organizations should provide more capacity building for young people in line with improving their ability to effectively implement repatriation, resettlement, disarmament, de-radicalization, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration.
- Young Peacebuilders must set up a youth-led DDR process within the Cameroons National Action Plan, taking into consideration the existing varying contexts that would guide youth approaches to DDR in Cameroon.



*Interactive and engaging Group Breakout Sessions*

### **Day 3: 30th of October 2021**

The third day mainly involved the consolidation and presentation of key recommendations captured throughout the symposium as well as a closing led by the Canadian High Commissioner and the African Union Youth For Peace

### **Highlights from Group Work:**

- A national day of Peace and solidarity is a major strategy to involve the participation of every stakeholder in nation-building.
- A toll-free emergency number and centre for victims or persons in need of assistance be created in a bid to mitigate radicalization.
- Constantly create, solidify networks and disseminate information within CSOs working in conflict-affected Regions to forester the protection of all state and youth leaders active in nation-building is protected,

- Intensify and enforce security policies governing each region in a bid to gain effective protection.
- For disengagement and reintegration to be effective, young people should focus more on sensitization, creating income-generating schemes and creating a way out for former combatants.

#### **J. Presentation on establishing a budget for our National Action Plan. How do we mobilize finances for the NAP**

**Speaker:** Akono Ulrich Constant (Finance Expert, Local Youth Corner Cameroon)

**Discussion Highlights:** Recommendations on how to mobilize funds for the implementation of NAP, young people should bear in mind that having a budget for implementation will not be an easy task and would recur full transparency and accountability. He stressed the importance of collaboration and reporting to other stakeholders.



*Presentation on finance mobilization and management techniques*

#### **K. Presentation on advocacy plan for the Localization of a National Action Plan.**

**Speaker:** Ateki Seta (Founder of NewSeta)

**Discussion Highlight:** While describing the current conflict setting of Cameroon at the moment, he stressed on the importance of young people possessing values as they advocate for NAP as well as creating an enabling environment for identifying and creating policies meant to guide youths in Advocacy. Advocacy is identifying issues with existing policies by creating an enabling environment.





*Mr Seta presenting on advocacy for YPS in context Cameroon*

## **Presenting the Declaration for a National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security in Cameroon.**

The National Declaration on the Localization of the African Union Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security (AU CFYPS) established by the participants of this National Symposium was officially presented for the first time by a female participant representing Mother of Hope Cameroon, Northwest Region.



*Female Participant representing Northwest Region reading the National Declaration on YPS*



## **CLOSING CEREMONY & SPORTS ACTIVITY**

H.E. Richard Bale, Canadian High Commissioner to Cameroon gave inspiring closing remarks as he congratulated every participant for having engaged and shared perspective all through the conference duration and for their efforts as committed young peace builders in Cameroon. He challenged young people to take up their responsibilities and not fail.

On the other hand, *AU Representative, Mr Opubu Goodhead* gave good feedback to participants for their active engagements and strategic contributions during this 3 day' event. He went further to encourage especially youth peace builders in the room to continue being advocates for collaboration with other stakeholders at both local, national and regional levels, in a bid to enhance the development and inevitably, the smooth implementation of the National Action Plan throughout Cameroon.

Mr. Achaleke Christian Officially closed the conference as participants made their way to the Mateco Stadium of the University of Yaoundé I, Ngoa Ekele



*Closing Remarks made by Canadian High Commissioner, H.E Richard Bale (left) and Opubo Goodhead, AU representative (right)*

The 3-day symposium came to an end with the friendly encounter football match at the Mateco stadium within the University of Yaoundé I campus, Ngoe-Ekele

A total number of 20 participants took part in the match which consisted of two gender-inclusive teams; Team Peace and Team Collaboration. Both teams played for approximately 1 hr.30 minutes which ended in an equal score of 2-2. The game was concluded with dance sessions and art demonstrations from the WE WIN dance crew.



*Football match encounter and relaxation activity*

*(street dance)*

## Partners

This symposium was jointly funded by the African Union, Canadian High Commission to Cameroon and UNFPA. Plan International also supported technically and mobilised youth participants from their current YPS project within the LCB region. The Symposium was patronised and technically supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education.





Under the Patronage of the Minister of Youth Affairs and Civic Education

## Local Youth Corner Cameroon

Presents



### Symposium on Localizing the African Union Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security in Cameroon



28th -30th  
October 2021



### Symposium sur la Localisation du Cadre Continental de l'Union Africaine sur la Jeunesse, la Paix et la Sécurité au Cameroun



sous le Patronage du Ministre de la Jeunesse et de L'éducation Civique



VENUE: Chambre d'Agriculture, Yaounde, Cameroon



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*Logos of partners and CSO members*

## PART TWO

### ACTIVITY MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Evaluation of the symposium and the activity is an important component of a training program. It provides the trainer and the management useful information in order to further improve the training materials and objectives. This evaluation was carried out through the whole of the

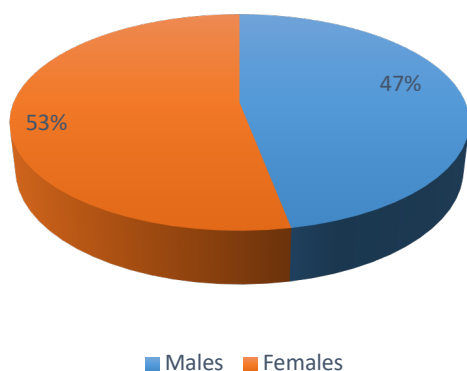
implementation of the project, the symposium, after the end of each session, and sometimes after a series of sessions as well. The purpose of the section is to assess the effectiveness and outcomes of the **NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LOCALIZING THE AFRICAN UNION CONTINENTAL FRAMEWORK ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY IN CAMEROON** carried out with members INGOs, local NGOs and CSOs and some government representatives from the 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in Yaoundé. This report presents the outcome and feedback on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the activities from 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The report captures participants' impressions of different aspects of the training. The monitoring of this project activities was at different Levels: output, process, outcome and impact level. The M&E tools used during the AU CFYPS symposium were the Pre & Post-test forms, signed attendance sheets and activity evaluation forms. In order to get more insight into participants' perceptions of the activity some of them were interviewed. The results obtained from the tools mentioned above are detailed in the table below:

## Participant Profile

### - Gender

The participant attendance sheet for the symposium showed that a total number of 64 participants attended the event including speakers and the LOYOC project team. Amongst the participant, we had 30 females and 34 males. This number of participants include both the trainers and the project team.

## Gender



*disaggregation during the AU CFYPS Symposium*

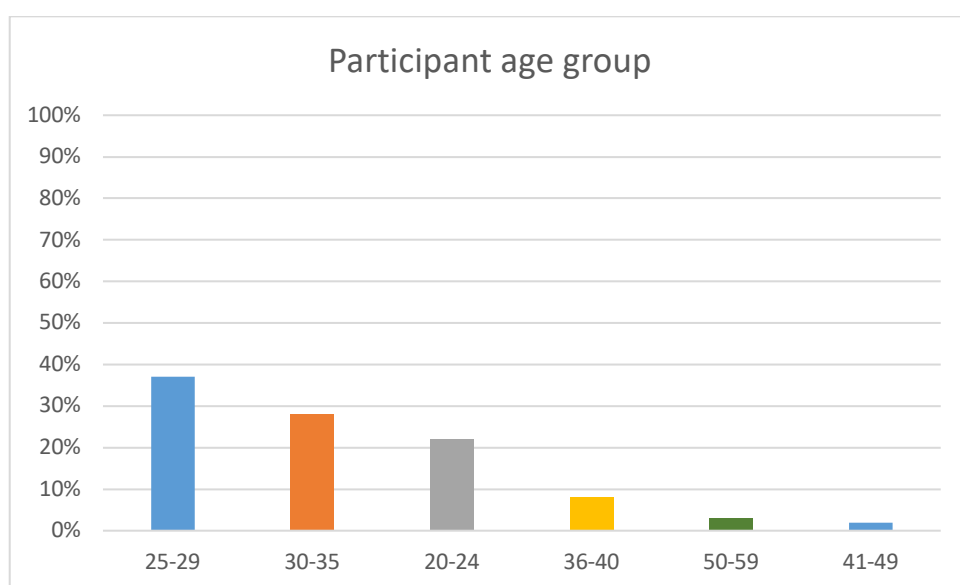


*Fig 1: Graphical Presentation of gender*

The diagram above shows that the participation of females in comparison to males was slightly lower. This indicates that in the selection of participant's gender was highly considered due to the fact that women have a strong role in peacebuilding.

#### - Age

Generally, the activity was dominated by youth, most of them within the age group of 25-29 years (22), followed by 30-35yrs (17), 20-24yrs (13), 36-40(5), 50-59(2) and 41-49(1). The friendly sports activity was very engaging as all the participants responded present. Also, according to the attendance sheet, the following results were obtained as concerns the number of participants who came from the different regions.



*Fig 2: Graphical Presentation of participant age group*

#### - Region

Participants of the symposium were selected from the 10 regions of Cameroon as shown on the diagram below.

Regions	Total Number	Male	Female
Centre	16	10	06
West	03	02	01
East	03	02	01
Far North	07	04	03



<b>North</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>South West</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>North West</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>South</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Littoral</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Adamawa</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>

*Table 1: Tabular Representation of participants based on regions*

Also, there was 50 youth representing local CSOs from the 10 regions of Cameroon, International development stakeholders such as PLAN International, the African Union, UNFPA, University lectures and UNESCO. We were also honoured by the presence of state policy maker's representatives from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education.

### **Training Methodology:**

The training methodology consisted of presentations (lectures), case studies, group work, open discussions, learning games, brainstorming exercises and experience sharing.

The training presentations and additional complementary materials were prepared both in French and in English. Also, additional complimentary materials were prepared in form of handouts and distributed during the group discussions in each presentation of the sections.

At the beginning of training a pre-test and at the end post-test was taken from participants in order to assess the skills, knowledge and improvement of the training and at the end, an

evaluation questionnaire was distributed in order to evaluate the training results and its success amongst the participants as well.

### **Participants Reactions**

The training was evaluated through the questionnaire provided by LOYOC'S team and the evaluation forms were completed by 50 participants and there was no compulsion for participants to complete these forms. The participants shared their feedback and helped us to analyse the outcome of the training.

The three-day symposium was conducted successfully in Yaoundé. The facilitators were well prepared and the participants were enthusiastic to gain knowledge, improve their skills and knowledge on the AU CFYPS. All the participants felt their expectations were met and indicated that the design and methodology of the training contributed to this.

The participants found the training was well managed, insightful and up to date training contents and provided excellent information. The good communication skills and methodology of trainers provided excellent opportunities to learn from and to exchange experience and knowledge with other participants. They highly appreciated the breakout sessions which gave them the opportunity to exchange their diverse views but also to do networking. Many of them expressed the fact that this activity was one in a kind and rare one which brought many CSOs working in peacebuilding for has never happened before according to them.

*“Until now I never saw this coming, a situation where youth leaders working in peacebuilding will want to join forces together in Cameroon; but it is a reality as we have participated in this symposium”, said Ronald, participant of the symposium.*

Participants were asked to rate different aspects of the training; these aspects were showing the relevancy, training objectives, expectations, content, skills and overall assessment of trainers’ activity to know and analyse outputs of the training. The below rating shows the total percentage of each output. Based on evaluation forms, the participants indicated that 95% of training objectives were met by clear explanation group works and 86 % indicated that the training was relevant to their current working area.

S/N o	Items	Scoring (%)
1	Overall, how would you rate the training facilities, contents and management?	90
2	Was the training content explored, relevant to your current responsibilities	86
3	How much of the information you learned in the training, was useful	82

4	The objectives of the training were presented and were met	95
5	To what extent does the training meet your expectations	89
6	Organization of the training in terms of scheduling, duration & Handouts	90
7	The training contents and materials were relevant	86
8	The illustrations, PPTs and group works were well organized & satisfactorily performed	90
13	Respected the knowledge, Opinions and experience of the participants	80
15	Used an effective mix of training methods and exercise	87
16	Generated a desire for learning and involved participants in each topic	80
17	Providing time for follow up and group discussion	89
	The training was relevant to my sector of work	86
Overall Average		87

*Table 2: Participants' general ratings of the training session and trainers*

The participants who completed the evaluation forms were asked to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the overall training and the trainer. The table below summarizes the responses.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective and useful group activities</li> <li>• Clear explanation of contents from trainers</li> <li>• Good communication and ethical behaviour of the trainer</li> <li>• Relevancy of the training to participants' workforce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants said the training duration was not sufficient</li> <li>• Activities often began late and end late</li> <li>• There was a lot of up and down movement by participants during sessions</li> <li>• participants were coming very late</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well management of the training</li> <li>• Active participation of Women in this training.</li> <li>• Good venue for the training</li> <li>• Well organized and detailed program of activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotels, where participants were lodged, were very far from the event venue</li> </ul>
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### Participants Learning:

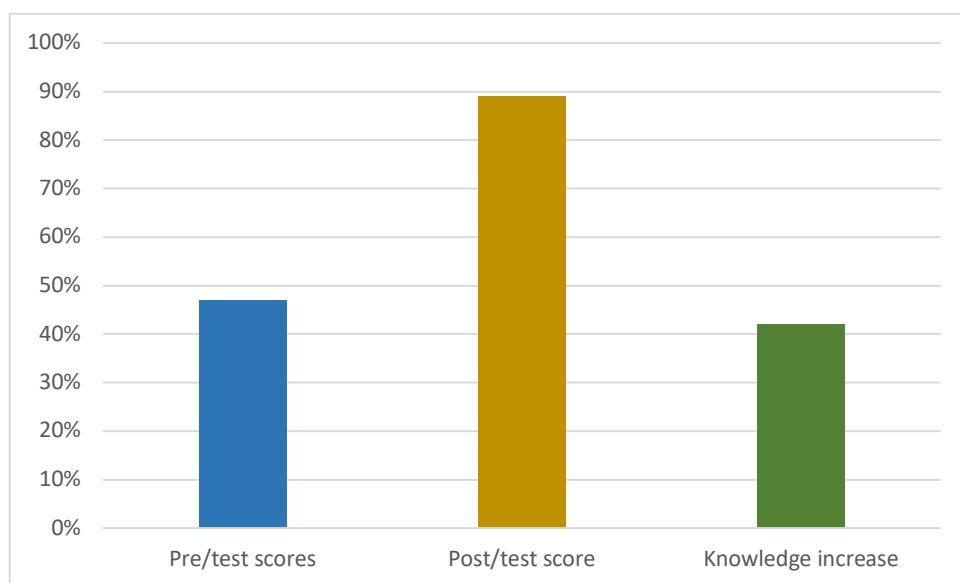
At the beginning of the symposium, a pre-test was taken from participants in order to identify the capacity and awareness of the participants regarding AU CFYPS. At the end of the training, the participants were given a post-test which was focused on the same topics in a pre-test in order to assess the acquired knowledge and capacity of the participants.

The pre-test results indicate that the participants only had 47% knowledge and awareness of AU CFYPS before conducting the training and at the end of training their skills and knowledge was improved to 89%. The comparing results of pre-test and post-test show 42% improvement of the skills and knowledge. These results clearly indicate that the reactions of the participants

to the proposed training, topics were positive and very relevant. Below are some reactions from participants

*“Until now, I had not understood the framework on youth, peace and security, but today I see myself a ready ambassador to carry and spread this message.”* **Leslie Shey**

*“Until now, I have never heard of the AU CFYPS, but here I am, actively participating in the discussions on sensitive issues which concerns Youth, Peace and security,”* **said Annika a participant of the symposium**



**Fig 3: Graphical Representation of Participant learning pre/post-test**

As the graphical figures show Pre-Test and Post Test consists of the same 10 questions which were answered by 50 participants and each question have 10 points which are marked as 50 points. The result of the pre-test to each question shows that the level of knowledge among participants on AU CFYPS Was lower than 50% and even they did not have much information on the framework in their routine works. The post-test result shows a significant improvement in their learning and knowledge which is more than 50%. The participant gave different responses in relation to the specific skills which they learned during the training which after categorizing gave 4 major categories:

- Better mastery of the AU CFYPS
- The knowledge of the importance of implementing all actors of the CSOs, government, businesses and most especially the youths in the promotion of peace and security.
- The 5 Ps of Youth peace and security (Protection, prevention, participation and partnership).
- Learnt to accept that conflict/wars have different sources and should be considered when developing solutions. To avoid risks as a peace ambassador, readily change but with object.

Participants also share the different ways in which they were going to use the knowledge which they acquired during the training which includes:

- Organizing ‘Pass-on’ activities to create awareness in my locality and beyond
- Build the capacities of peers.
- Create more awareness, so as to engage more youths and community in YPS
- Seek partnership with relevant peers and stakeholders to implement the action plan.

Through this symposium, the participant’s level of knowledge on AU CFYPS was improved and they showed their satisfaction from this training. Some of the participants said they will apply this training concept in their area of working which was directly relevant to their jobs and they expressed that this training had considerably enhanced their knowledge and capacity in AUCFYPS. Some of the successful impact stories of the participants are briefed as below:

### *Successful Impact Stories:*

- *“Being a part of this process and giving my own meaningful contributions to drafting the recommendations of the symposium, collaborating with other stakeholders especially my peers and development experts is a dream come true. This shows we are making some progress towards establishing peace and security within our country”.*
- *“I always thought that forums or symposiums were just another meetings with no follow-up, today I see that the implementation is inclusive but also that we really aspire to the creation, establishment and respect of the implementation of what will be written in this document.”*
- *“Thanks to this activity, I have further understood the role of young people in their civic participation, in particular the role of young people in the peace and security process.”*
- *“Until now, I have never heard of the AU CFYPS, but here I am, actively participating in the discussions on sensitive issues which concerns Youth, Peace and security”.*
- *“Until now, I was eager to get what the symposium would have as outcomes, at the moment I feel fulfilled and competent we are going to change the narrative.”*

### **Recommendations and Suggestions:**

During the symposium, participants share recommendations and observations toward ensuring the process of developing a NAP is more inclusive and efficient. They suggested;



- For an inclusive action plan to be developed there will be a need to have similar consultation across the ten regions with at least 200 youth leaders across the regions. this will contribute to making the recommendation and design of the NAP more legitimate.
- For the next phase of the programme, time should be long so as to give participants more time to express themselves, network and clear their doubts about one very topic.
- Panellists should make available physical copies of their presentations and share them with participants.
- Participants wish to be in possession of an activity report for each phase of the programme.
- More time should be allocated to the speaker so that participants will understand better their topics

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the 3-day' Symposium event aimed at localizing the African Union Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security in Cameroon (AU CFYPS), successfully brought together youth peacebuilders, development and government stakeholders from all the 10 regions of Cameroon. This was a first step to the development of a National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security. The event was the first of its kind to bring together in the same room all the various actors directly concerned in the development and implementation of peace initiatives both at local to national levels.

The evaluation which was carried out and the overview of the outcome of the activity shows that the symposium had a great positive impact on the participants' careers and the

improvement of their knowledge. Also, the feedback of the participants helped us to figure out the strengths and weaknesses of the training and made us perform better to overcome the weaknesses that we had in the training. This report clearly shows what part of the symposium was implemented well and what else needed to be improved in order to meet the expectations of participants and achieve the objectives of the symposium properly.

Overall, the participants expressed their satisfaction in the feedback sessions about trainers' skills, knowledge of the subject, training methods, contents, materials, and management. Based on the participants, the training was very effective, met their expectations, and was relevant to their field and it will definitely have a positive impact on their jobs.