



FINAL DECLARATION OF SOTU PLATFORM WORKSHOP

Appreciating the putting in place of the project SOTU (State Of The Union),

Considering the instruments of the African Union (AU) selected as part of this project,

Considering both instruments the African Youth Charter (AYC) and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) as basis for the implementation of SOTU project in Cameroon,

Considering the ratification of the AYC by Cameroon in 2010, among which one of the objective is "*to give young people many rights essential to their full potential*"

Considering the ratification of the ACDEG by Cameroon in 2012, among which one of the objective is "*recognizing among others the right of every citizen to participate in politics either as a candidate or as a voter in the framework of democracy enshrined in free, fair, transparent and regular elections.*"

Considering the importance of these texts for the wellbeing of Cameroonian citizens, especially the youth on one hand and for the democratic progress and stability of Cameroon on the other hand.

Noting the deficiencies in the internalization of the provisions of these instruments in Cameroon,

Civil Society Organizations (CSO), networks and platforms, from the ten regions of Cameroon, united during the CSO training workshop and creation of the national platform SOTU which held from the 22nd to 24th February 2016 on the invitation of Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme (NDH), project holder of SOTU in Cameroon, unanimously agree on the creation of "***My African Union Platform***" to:

- Urge the Cameroon Government to sign and ratify the legal and political instruments of the African Union ;
- Monitor and hold the Cameroon government accountable on their performance in the area of democratic governance, economic and social rights on the basis of the legal instruments and AU policies;
- Enable Cameroonian citizens to be aware of their rights protected by the AU and claim them through the use of AU mechanisms;
- Build the capacity of CSO to play a monitoring role through trainings, sharing of experiences and capitalization of best practices.

Haven understood the aforementioned issues, the challenges of non-internalization of AU instruments and understanding the shortcomings of these instruments by CSO ;

We commit ourselves to:

- Be actively involved in the promotion of both instruments and all instruments of the AU,
- Encourage the Cameroon government to make the declaration as stipulated in Article 34 of the Optional Protocol to the ACHPR in establishing the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, which paralyzes the non existence of citizens and CSO in the process of referral to this Court,
- Invite the State of Cameroon to comply with Article 49 of the ACDEG which states that "*each AU member state must report its activities to the respect of Human Rights every two years.*" »

Aware of the importance to work in synergy and pulling our efforts in view to cover the entire national territory in consideration of AU instruments, decide to create the "***My African Union Platform Cameroon***" whose founding charter is being adopted today.

For this purpose, a steering committee of ***seven (7)*** members was elected and installed as well as ***ten (10)*** regional focal points.

Aware of the difficulties faced by victims seeking justice for the violation of their rights, and convinced that many of these difficulties are related to the precariousness of most of the victims and the weak financial situation of human rights defenders and CSO engaged in this work, decide to create a ***Support Fund for Victims of Violations of Human Rights*** including the running, management and administrative procedures which shall be adopted by ***My African Union Platform. /.***

**Done in Yaoundé this 24th day of February 2016.
The participants**

