

**REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN**

Paix – Travail - patrie

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*Ministère de l'Économie, de la Planification  
et de l'Aménagement du territoire*

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**REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON**

Peace – Work - Fatherland

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*Ministry of Economy, Planning  
and Regional Development*

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**FIRST EDITION OF THE WORLD STATISTICS DAY**

**– 20 OCTOBER 2010 –**

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY, PLANNING AND  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**HIS EXCELLENCY LOUIS PAUL MOTAZE**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am delighted; on the behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, to join the international community for the celebration of the first edition of the ***World Statistics Day (WSD)***, on this 20 October 2010.

Allow me to hail the initiative undertaken by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 41<sup>st</sup> session hosted in New York on February 2010. The targeted goal through this celebration is to make the better understanding of the importance of this discipline at the national, regional and international levels.

The overall theme proposed for this first edition is “**Celebrating the Many Achievements of Statistics: Service, Professionalism and Integrity**”. Indeed, the official statistics produced in accordance with the fundamental principles adopted by the United Nations are essential for the socio-economic development of countries. They spark and fuel public debates. They contribute to the emergence of a society led by established facts. They are indispensable for social and economic research. They enable the civil society to oversee the management of public affairs. In a nutshell, statistics is a support tool for the development of the Results-based Management (RbM) culture.

Through this celebration, Cameroon wants to show its pride for the quality of the statistics produced by the stakeholders of the National Statistical Information System in order to assure transparency, responsibility and good governance in the handling of public affairs. Besides the normal productions such as the reports on the evolution of national accounts and inflation, the other major and recent statistical realisations I can mention are the 2010 General Enterprise Census, the 2010 national report on the progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs), the 2010 Public Expenditure Tracking Survey, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cameroonian Household Survey (ECAM3) of the year 2007, the 2006 national survey on the situation of women and children, the 2005 Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector and the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Population and Housing Census of 2005.

As a member country of the United Nations Statistical Commission for the period 2010-2013, Cameroon supports the implementation of the norms adopted at the international level. On the national plan, Cameroon works for improving statistics in many domains, notably marital status, gender, governance, the follow-up of the MDGs, environment and climate change, infrastructures, etc.

The Vision affirmed by His Excellency Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon, to make Cameroon an emerging and democratic country by the year 2035, united in its diversity, reinforces the need for the availability of good quality statistical information.

In order to materialise this Vision, the Government implements, since 2009, the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) whose first quadrennial programme spans the period 2009 - 2013. The appraisal of the state of advancement of this strategy in 2010 reveals that the knowledge transfer and the reinforcement of the national statistical capacities remain priorities. Furthermore, the 65<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the progress made towards the realisation of the MDG, hosted from 20 to 22 September 2010 in New York, proved that

improving statistical capacities was vital for the follow-up and the evaluation of the progress made in the way of development.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

This first edition of the World Statistics Day comes as a support for the African Statistics Day (ASD) whose 20<sup>th</sup> edition is to be celebrated on next 18 November. The Government, during that period, will carry on a certain number of activities, notably the hosting of the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the National Council of Statistics.

I seize this occasion to express anew the deep gratitude of the Government towards its technical and financial partners which support its efforts in the different statistical domains.

At last, I convey the thanks of the Government to all and to every statistician of Cameroon for the devotion, professionalism and integrity they show every day for the development of the National Statistical Information System.

**Three cheers for the World Statistics Day!**

**Long life Cameroon!**