

**REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN**

Paix – Travail – Patrie

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**MINISTRE DE L'HABITAT ET  
DU DEVELOPPEMENT URBAIN**

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**SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

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COMITE D'ORGANISATION DE LA JMH

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SECRETARIAT TECHNIQUE

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COMMISSION SCIENTIFIQUE

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SECRETARIAT PERMANENT



**REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON**

Peace – Work – Fatherland

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**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

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**SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

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LOCAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE OF WHD

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TECHNICAL SECRETARY



## THEMATIC AXIS : URBAN SECURITY

### THEME 5: Crime prevention through environmental designs and the current threats to urban security and safety in Cameroon.

#### 1. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

Security contributes to quality of life and attractiveness of a territory for its citizens and businesses, to a good and safe environment to live in, and it has an impact on socio-economic development. **Urban authorities are amongst the most important players to ensure that actual and perceived security are addressed by targeted measures, as they have a strong local presence and know the local challenges.** Security is a multi-factor issue that should include areas such as social integration (access to good quality and non-segregated basic services including education, social and health care, etc.), law enforcement, society's resilience, and community empowerment against any forms of violence, including preventing radicalisation. In addition, it also concerns enhancing the protection of buildings and infrastructure.

Cities should be safe, secure, and free of violence, crime, harassment, and fear of crime for all their citizens. **Security by Design (SbD) as a partly new approach has the potential to keep cities safe and secure.** The implementation of an approach based on SbD principles to enhance security in public spaces is an innovative practice in which local and regional authorities, to date, often have little experience and/or expertise. The SbD approach builds on knowledge from physical protection; site and target hardening, access control, and surveillance/censoring techniques. Nevertheless, SbD also builds on notions and concepts like the resilience of cities, the quality of life in cities, inclusiveness, security-co-production, efforts to counter actual and perceived lack of security, the use of new digital technologies, behavioural sciences, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), environmental psychology and nudging practices. These are all approaches to

reduce and prevent crime, incivilities, nuisances, and other safety and security issues like specific types of terrorism.

The SbD approach is relevant for both smaller and larger cities. It could help balance efforts to increase urban resilience whilst also promoting the open and inclusive character of the public sphere. SbD can contribute to the quality of life in cities and improve conviviality, liveability, and the attractiveness of areas.

**As there is limited knowledge and/or expertise on the SbD approach in various countries, is it important to promote and mainstream the concept of the SbD approach for countries by presenting a basic need to include safety and security considerations into the planning, design, and management of urban spaces.** This is also stated in Action 6.2 of the Action Plan of the Urban Agenda for the European Union Partnership for Security in Public Spaces. There is also a connection to other Actions of the Action plan: for instance, to Action 5 on social cohesion, and to Action 1 which focuses on creating a self-assessment framework for urban authorities to measure how they are progressing in terms of safety and security.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE SESSION**

The main goal of this session is to explore and promote urban security in the context of crime prevention through environmental design and criminal justice responses to the current threats to urban security and safety.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- To improve on the quality of security and development at the urban level;
- To examine a range of issues on sustainable urban development;
- To carry out an assessment of planned and existing spaces and buildings with a focus on preventing urban crimes.

## **3. SPAEKERS**

The speakers at this session shall be:

- **Moderator** : DG NASLA, Buea
- **Panelists** :
  - President of ONUC;
  - President of ONAC;
  - PGU Coordinator /MINHDU;
  - The Head, Department of Geography, University of Buea;
  - DR National Security/East or his representative.
  - DDSU/MINHDU.

## **4. The key issues (Grand Lingne) to be addressed by the Moderator**

It is the right of all those who are living in the urban centers to be **assured of their security**. Considering that the urban centers are the hub of the economic growth, it becomes more sensitive to consider the security situation in the area. At

times it becomes very hard or even impractical for one person to influence the economic decisions of another person.

However, the government agencies also have a responsibility to make sure that those who opt to move from the rural areas to the urban areas have peace and security. It is true that over the previous years, the case of an increase in the level of crimes in the urban areas has been escalating.

The urban centers have become the breeding ground for the criminals to advance their agenda of robbing from people. Even though the government may invest more on security through foreign missions, there is the need to get seized of the issue of insecurity and crimes in the urban centers. It reaches a point where the role played by the security agencies becomes oblivious.

Considering that in the past the cases of crimes were few, it means that the current changes in the security status can be attributed to the structural changes that have come up as a result of the growth in the urban centers. To have a positive growth in the expansion of our cities, security has to be considered.

Thus, we have to **make prevention a priority**. Effective prevention programming, to be identified for all the regions of Cameroon, has to include:

- Urban environmental design for safety and creating a physical environment in which people will feel secure and can move freely;
- Institutional crime and violence prevention (e.g., promoting the role of local government in providing safety and security for their inhabitants and encouraging community and problem-oriented policing); and
- Alternative forms of justice and bringing justice closer to the people (e.g. tribunals and traditional community conflict mediation mechanisms) etc.

This is the modus Operandi of this theme, where we will be attempting to establish a relationship between the **prevention of crime** and **environmental designs** as well as the **related challenges we face today** in the country.

## 5. CONTENTS OF THE COMMUNICATION

- **The president of ONUC** will present on the Improvement of spatial design, urban planning and development of security by design concepts, including better protection of public spaces improvement of the resilience of buildings and infrastructure;
- **The president of ONAC** will present on Empowerment and capacity building of local communities, including enhanced risk awareness and building societal resilience;
- **The Coordinator of PGU** will presents on the cross-sectoral preparedness to security threats against public spaces, including better coordination among first responders and different authorities;
- **The Head, Department of Geography, University of Buea** will presents on the Risk analysis and strategic planning for disasters and emergencies;
- **The representative of DR National Security/East** will present on the Security and safety threats in urban areas and or Security concepts for public spaces and large-scale events;

- **DDSU/MINH DU** will present on crime prevention assessment of planned and existing spaces and buildings with a focus on preventing urban crimes.

## **6. PARTICIPANTS AND TARGET AUDIENCE**

### ➤ **Participants :**

The participants will be resource persons who can critically observe, intervene and contribute so as to enrich the debates. They include:

- UN-HABITAT ;
- Architects;
- Town Planners;
- Mayors;
- Invited Guest (National and International);
- Civil Society Organization (C.S.O)
- Non Governmental Organization (N.G.O)
- Police, Armed forces, Community based security providers, Municipal courts and prosecutors, Private security companies ETC.

### ➤ **Public Audience**

- Regional Councilors ;
- Regional executives ;
- Mayors ;
- MINH DU ;
- MINDDEVEL ;
- MINAT ;
- RLA's technical services;
- Professional Orders ;
- Researchers and students;
- Town Planning offices;
- Populations.

## **7. TIME, PLACE AND DATE OF THE SESSION**

- **Time of session** : 03 hours;
- **Time of presentation per panelist** : 10 minutes ;
- **Place** : Bertoua;
- **Date**: See program Schedule.

## **8. EXPECTED RESULTS AND DELIVERABLE**

The expected results are:

- The urban actors are informed on ways of improving the quality of security and development at the urban level;

- The population and urban actors will be informed on a range of issues on sustainable urban development as well as the ways of carrying out an assessment of planned and existing spaces and buildings with a focus on preventing urban crimes.

At the end of this session, a summary report will be drawn up and shared to all the participants and local actors involved in the amelioration of the lives of the population.