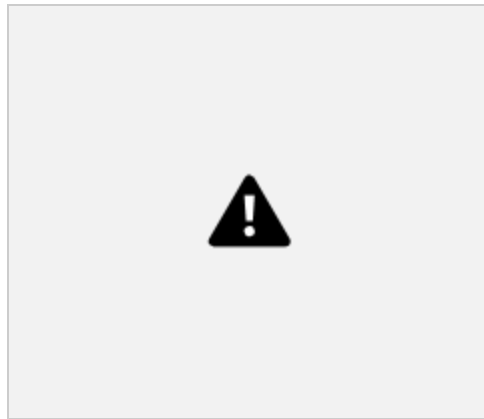


African Union

The Republic of Cameroon



Topic 1: Improving and Applying Developmental Tech Infrastructure

I. Past and Current International Action

Africa is home to seven of the ten fastest-growing economies in the world (“French 2012”), and despite the preconceived ideas of a continent forever plagued by disease, war and turmoil, it is rapidly becoming one of the most desirable investment destinations. Today an environment where the private sector can thrive is quickly spreading through Africa, thanks to the past international and domestic reforms adopted by nations across the continent.

One clear example of such success can be found in, Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. Over the past decade, Nairobi has transformed into a technology epicentre. This due in part to the Kenyan government pushing to be at the forefront of technology development as well as Nairobi’s strategic use of foreign aid. With over 54 current startups in Nairobi (“AngelList”) (and more being conceived everyday), Nairobi has clearly been a very investor-friendly environment. In fact, by 2019 Kenya’s tech hub is estimated to be worth over \$1 billion dollars (“Moime 2016”).

The Kenyan government’s exceptional management of its private sector has also led to an increase in capital gains. Over the years the Kenyan government has created the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Authority. The ICT Authority is a state corporation under the Kenyan Ministry of Information Communication and Technology. The corporation was established in August 2013. The Authority is tasked with rationalising and streamlining the management of all Kenyan government ICT functions. This government organization has been extremely successful. Programs such as “ICT Roadmap,” an initiative that collects county data about small businesses and enterprises and use it to help dictate where government

improvements should be made. Additionally, the Kenyan government has prioritized youth education with programs like “DigiSchool,” a technology implemented in Kenyan classrooms that is currently leading to rapid increase of enrollment numbers in schools.

But Kenya’s success with ICT management and regulation has not gone unnoticed. UNESCO, in partnership with the African Union, has also made progress in ICT developments across the continent. One of the key elements of a successful technologically-friendly environment is proper education. Throughout Africa, there are many problems in education and most science and engineering fields, due to a lack of sufficient learning materials such as books or human resources. UNESCO is promoting the use of ICTs in science and engineering courses to combat this problem. Through projects such as “Bilko,” an e-learning program, and a UNESCO launched Virtual Campus, UNESCO has established its support of helping grow and foster new educational programs across the continent. UNESCO is also heavily involved in the African Space Program, which it uses as a platform for spreading science and technology education opportunities across the continent.

Lastly, the Joint Africa-EU Strategy has continually proven to be effective. The Joint Africa-EU Strategy is a communication initiative to strengthen ties between the EU and the continent of Africa to collaborate on regional developmental projects. A clear example is the Pan African Programme. The Pan-African Programme provides support to the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and is the first ever EU program that covers Africa as a whole. The program focuses on many things but a key objective is a focus on ICT and research across the continent. In July 2014, the EU launched the first phase of the Pan-African Programme with a total allocation of €415 million for the period 2014-2017 (“Europa”).

II. County's Position

Cameroon is a coastal country in Central Africa that is home to over 200 languages. It is nicknamed "Africa in Miniature" due to its extremely diverse population ("BBC"). Cameroon also has one of the highest literacy rates throughout the entire continent of Africa ("BBC") and is considered one of the most urban developments in all of Western Africa. Cameroon has a total of 4.73 billion dollars of exports and is constantly growing each year ("OEC"). A key reason to the continuous successful exports is due in part to the strong infrastructure and transportation developments in the country.

Extending even beyond urban areas, Cameroon has managed to develop natural backbones for roads, rails, power, and ICT networks, especially by the standards of Central Africa. For instance, there is a visible North-South axis, and greater density on coastal areas. However, regional connectivity with Nigeria and the rest of Central Africa remains currently untapped and has major potential with growing transportation technologies.

Cameroon has attracted private sector participation into some sections of its ports. APM Terminals is a stakeholder in the Douala container terminal, having been selected to manage and operate the facility on a concession basis for a period of 15 years beginning in July 2004 (Dominguez-Torres, Foster 2011). This demonstrates the private sector also has a strong presence in the ownership, management, and operation of many cargo export terminals. Despite the strong presence of the private sector in container operations in Douala, greater involvement of the private sector could be achieved as part of wider institutional reforms.

Access to power has steadily improved in Cameroon. National access to electricity increased from 37 percent above the average for Africa's resource-rich countries in 1996, to 46

percent in 2002, and to 48 percent in 2007. Estimates of urban access suggest that between 65 percent and 88 percent of the urban population has access to electricity. At 88 percent, access to power in urban areas is greater than in most countries in Africa. This allows for the eventually fostering of a technological friendly cities and environments (Dominguez-Torres, Foster 2011). Additionally, hydroelectric resources remain the most readily exploitable form of energy in Cameroon, which is considered to have the greatest hydroelectric potential in Africa (“Cameroon Tribune”). By created the proper developments this could be extremely beneficial to ensuring consistent power throughout the country.

Better access to improved infrastructure services is key factor for economic growth. Over the years African nations have greatly improved their infrastructure, and Cameroon is no exception. Between 2000 and 2005 improvements in information and communication technologies boosted Cameroon’s economic growth performance by 1.26 percent per capita, while deficient power infrastructure held growth back by 0.28 percent. If Cameroon could improve its infrastructure to the level of the middle-income countries of Africa, the growth effect could be onwards to about 3.3 percent (Dominguez-Torres, Foster 2011). Cameroon has made significant progress in many aspects of infrastructure. Across a broad range of sectors, the country has made serious efforts to implement institutional reforms with a view to attracting private sector investment. Private sector concessions have been awarded for the Port of Douala, the CAMRAIL railway, the national power utility (AES Sonel), and the national water utility (CDE). These arrangements have generally led to performance improvements and attracted significant volumes of finance. In terms of Cameroon's roads, massive investments throughout the major cities have proven quite beneficial; however, the sustainability of these investments is

not yet guaranteed due to the lack of an efficient road maintenance system. In order to fully capitalize on transportation opportunities and developments, Cameroon's massive investments in hard infrastructure will eventually lead the gateway to efficient trade and commerce in the region.

Addressing Cameroon's infrastructure challenges will require sustained expenditure of \$1,480 million USD per year over the next decade. More than two-thirds of the required spending (\$1,095 USD million) is associated with capital investments, and the remaining third with operations and maintenance. Almost one-third of the total spending needs are related to the power sector, followed by water supply and sanitation. The effort that Cameroon would need to make to meet its infrastructure needs is equivalent to 8.9 percent of its GDP, significantly below the average for Sub-Saharan Africa (14.5 percent) (Dominguez-Torres, Foster 2011).

Mobile communications have been the main driver of ICT access in Cameroon, as in most African countries. Cameroon was an early introducer of mobile competition through the licensing of two operators. Mobile subscriptions have consistently risen with now 85 percent of the population now covered ("Buddle").

Cameroon's internet capabilities are show promise as well. Cameroon's population having access to the internet has risen from 749,600 users in 2009, to 985,565 in 2011, to over 1.1 million internet users in 2012. On top of that, Cameroon had 10,207 internet hosts in 2012 and was ranked 134th in the world. In 2008 the country had only 69 internet hosts. Despite others claiming the government to be segregating internet based on language, Cameroon is actually wanting to make a more transparent and clear system where everything is in one language as opposed to the confusion that occurs between many. Presently, in Cameroon the government

would like to introduce the French language in schools and courts across the country.

Cameroon's minister of post and telecommunications promised the government had no plans to cut the internet, saying, on September 27, stories of an imminent shutdown were mere rumors. ("Cameroonweb").

Lastly, Cameroon is fully supportive of 21st century initiatives to modernize schools with technology and electronic programs. Beyond ideology, Cameroon has actualized on this belief in technology in student's hands being beneficial by actually distributing over half a million free laptops to college and university students. Cameroon firmly believes this will improve education and research across the country. In addition to this distribution, there will also be a provision for high speed internet to all universities. Professor Jacques Fame Ndong, Cameroon's minister of higher education, says these laptops are "helping young university students secure access to a modern-day digital economy" (Kindzeka 2017).

III. Proposed Solutions

The proposed solutions below are focused on Cameroon's intention for a more suitable and well managed ICT environment throughout the African continent and hope that the African Union can adopt these ideas and policy. Cameroon firmly believes that the clear solutions proposed are applicable, reasonable, and helpful to all countries in the AU. After intense analysis of actions of the international community, Cameroon believes that more legislation should be place in place to capitalize on the rapidly growing ICT industry.

First, the current policies in place are not suitable to handle today's modern technologies. There must be an initiative to streamline the decision-making processes. A governmental reorganisation is needed in order to flesh out the ICT component and remove the blurred lines

that currently make accountability difficult to measure. Similar to Kenya's ICT Authority, there needs to be better governmental organizations in place to properly regulate and support a growing technological economy. For example, countries should have a well functioning government organization that can act as strong central support and be a resource to tech startups, government run infrastructure programs and integrating ICT into education.

Within this program, a prioritized system should be in place for where major funding should be sent. For example, some regions have focused heavily on the excessive and expensive far-reaching optical fibre cable deployment without properly realizing a more immediate allocation of those said funds. If the additional networks will not add value, there must be a reframing of national ICT ambitions and implementation projects or a reallocation of those resources to better cater to consumer product developments. Furthermore, it is more important to create a stable and consistent internet connection in large cities before rapidly distributing fiber optic cables, a necessity for internet, across the whole country or regions. In summary, funds need to be better evaluated and well spent at the governmental level to better address issues.

The proposed mandated governmental organization would additionally organize national statistics for the ICT sector. The existing official statistics can sometimes be too contradictory to be useful and a refined system can easily eliminate this problem. Standardized, credible methodologies should be adopted, and additionally each nation's statistics institution (or alternative) should have enough capacity so that it can produce a detailed, accurate annual survey of the country's ICT dimensions in partnership with the new organization.

The aforementioned proposed institution alternatively could be fostered and stay in the AU compound. This alternative should also be considered to help create continental

mandates and properly allocate funds to higher demands projects, such as (but not limited to) clean water, basic agricultural technology, and power. This overarching organization could also more efficiently outreach for funds due to the body being more accountable and an anti-corrupt system. Secondly, it can deal out funds equitably, fairly and within regulation. This organization should be separated from the pre-existing Science and Technology committee in the AU as the new committee only encapsulates basic technological programs and basic needs, as mentioned above.

It has been proven that better documentation and new technologies can develop to improve governmental and economic efficiency to a country nationwide. For example in Cameroon, approximately \$586 million in additional resources could be recovered each year by improving government efficiency. The largest potential source of efficiency gains is improving cost. Raising tariffs to cost-recovery levels could generate annual savings of \$266 million in the power sector and \$22 million in the water sector annually. Also, reducing operational and financial inefficiencies in the power and water sectors could generate annual savings of around \$254 million. Looking across sectors, power-related efficiencies offer the greatest potential for savings up to \$487 million per year (Dominguez-Torres, Foster 2011). With the proper systems, institutions, and/or governmental organizations accountable and effective this cost saving can be possible in many African countries.

In summary, a strong governmental presence could offer a strong support system to the stabilization of economies and rapidly growing tech communities across the region. Specifically focusing on technology, Africa has already seen a privately owned tech company be valued at over a billion dollars (“UPenn”), and fostering an environment for the next to be Cameroonian,

or any country's product, should be a priority. By installing governmental provisions and supporting early in Cameroon's, and many other nation's, urban technological development can help keep officials accountable and statistics well managed. This overarching system can eventually do it large part, in unlocking the vast economic potential of Africa.

IV. Answer to Questions

Question 1: There are many challenges facing the African continent today, especially in equity and education. Out of all regions of the world, Africa has the highest rates of education exclusion. In Africa more than 30 million children miss out on education, or educational programs in their communities ("UNESCO"). Technology can be a unifier across the country and can bring learning from city centers to rural areas. For example, Quick Do Book Box, founded by Cameroonian entrepreneur and IT expert Dominique Buende, developed a software for the local schools and universities (Spinks 2016). Though many would question jumping to technology when books are scarce and libraries bare, technology is the future. Most books are produced in Europe, cost a lot of money, and are often shared with many other people. By investing in long term technological plans, it has more of a renewable focus.

Obviously one standardized rollout across any region won't be effective, but the creating the necessary materials and curriculum needed in schools is effective. In Cameroon, over 80,000 free laptops have already been distributed to college and university students, and a planned half a million in total yet to be released (Kindzeka 2017). A local university student says, "We are very happy because it will help us to study well, it will help us to prepare our courses well. With this gift, the youths can now study well" (Kindzeka 2017).

In addition to the laptops, investment should be made on usable, reliable, and stable internet and other wireless access points in all areas of learning, including universities.

Question 3: Lack of infrastructure significantly holds back a majority of Africa's full economic potential. Africa is projected to be one of the fastest growing economic hubs in the world in the coming years, but poor infrastructure development needs to be addressed as a key issue. Without basic infrastructure developments, paved roads, a proper agricultural supply (depending on the region), and more, it is very unlikely for a country to develop and catch up with their international and global neighbors. For example, rather than focusing on more ICT developments or additional fiber optic connections to rural areas, it is obvious that in some regions agricultural technology is of higher importance. However, globally technological breakthroughs are rapid and integrating these products and services along with simultaneously achieving basic services, such as agriculture and farming. 70 percent of Africans make their living through agriculture and technology can help diversify the work force and drive urban development (Biteye 2016). In addition, rather than use complete foreign technology, many African developed resources are also available. For example, Zenvus, a Nigerian precision farming startup, measures and analyzes soil data like temperature, nutrients, and vegetative health to help farmers apply the right fertilizer and optimally irrigate their farms. Government funding and economic plans across the continent should continue focus on basic development such as housing, roads, railroads, etc. there should be a large focus on working with local partners and fellow Africans in creating infrastructure while also encouraging and promoting technological advancements and projects. Additionally, all solutions proposed imply that these programs are developed and manufactured in Africa. In the end, it should be a United African assembly to implement change.

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Topic 2: Combatting Public Sector Corruption

I. Current and Past International Involvement:

For centuries, public sector corruption has contributed to the weakening of economies, destabilization of governments, and deterioration of international relations. In fact, examples of such devastation can easily be found in a single year. In 2015, the Nigerian government declared that over \$150 billion US dollars had been lost to corruption over the past decade (“Bremmer 2016”). The same year, the Malaysian prime minister Najik Razak allegedly stole \$1 billion US dollars from the funds of a government run organization (“O’Grady 2015”). Yet despite the catastrophic effects of public sector corruption in a world globalism, only a handful of legally binding international agreements have been signed. The first of these agreements was drafted by the Organization of American States (OAS) and titled the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (IACAC). This document, ratified by 33 of 35 nations part of OAS, focused on strengthening cooperation between Member States to collectively combat corruption. It provided a variety of preventative measures, including those like promoting government budget transparency, that would set the groundwork for future international documents. According to a review mechanism that was later installed to evaluate the success IACAC, 21 nations had made significant progress towards implementing anti-corruption solutions (“US State Department 2014”).

The next notable international anti-corruption legislation came from the Anti-Corruption Conventions hosted by the Council of Europe (CEO) in 2003. From these conventions, Europe created its own version of IACAC expressed in three documents: CEO Criminal Law Convention, CEO Civil Law Convention, and the EU Convention Against Corruption (EUCAC). These three documents have worked effectively to combat corruption in both the private and public sectors of society (“GAN Business Anti-Corruption Portal”). Following Europe’s

example, the African Union adopted the African Union Convention on Combating and Preventing Corruption in 2003. It, like its European and American counterparts, criminalized acts of corruption and laid out a set of preventative measures (“AU”).

Finally, in 2006, the first global convention against corruption was signed. This convention, hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, established the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). As the only legally binding international document against corruption, UNCAC has 140 signatories and has been ratified by most Member States of the United Nations. UNCAC, a combination of EUCAC and IACAC, contains large articles pertaining to preventative measures, international cooperations, and a system of asset recovery for victims of corruption. Preventative measures include provisions such as promoting transparency in government proceedings (elections, budget, etc.) and establishing anti-corruption organizations. Under the International Cooperation articles, agreements on the transfer of evidence and legal documents regarding the prosecution of corruption between nations are established. UNCAC also has a section pertaining to repaying victims of corruption cases (“GAN Business Anti-Corruption Portal”).

In recent years, a rising number of NGOs (non-governmental organizations) have been formed to combat corruption. Among these is Transparency International, an organization based in Germany, that receives funding from UNODC as well as many other nations (“Transparency International 2016”). Throughout the years, Transparency International has provided statistics and helped implement solutions about corruption in every country in the world. Yet despite work from both government and privately run organizations, the world corruption perception index (CPI) is still at a poor 43 (out of 100) according to Transparency International.

II. Country Position:

The Republic of Cameroon is often referred to as “Africa in miniature” due to its diverse geography and peoples (“Euronews 2017”). Over the years, it has built a stable economy exporting oil, lumber, and manufactured goods. Cameroon’s established education system has led to one of the highest literacy rates in all of Africa. Yet despite these developments, Cameroon’s true economic potential has been severely impacted by its long-standing problem with public sector corruption (“BBC 2017”). According to the NGO Transparency International, Cameroon currently is the 145th least corrupt country in the world (out of 193), close to an all-time worst ranking for the country. Its low corruption perception index (CPI), 26 (out of 100), places it as the 7th most corrupt country in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa’s average is 33 (“Transparency International 2016”). In fact, according to research conducted by the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) in 2013, 69% of Cameroonians claimed to have paid a bribe over the past year. While Cameroon’s corruption stares us in the face; the causes for Cameroon’s corruption, can be linked to three reasons: her colonial history, a strong and unfettered executive branch, and a weakened judicial system.

The Republic of Cameroon was originally formed from land that was once part of the German Protectorate of Kamerun. When German colonists arrived in the late 19th century, the standards and cultural values that were enforced by the previous local kingdom were taken away. A harsh system of Western government and forced labor were put into place that disrupted the traditional lifestyle of millions of Cameroonians. The police and military forces were primarily concerned with preventing uprisings, while high taxes offered little benefits for civilians. In this

harsh and restrictive environment, bribes between civilians and government employees became common, lasting through the time of subsequent British and French rule

Another driving factor of Cameroon's corruption problem lies in single political party rule. The executive branch has, for the last 35 years, been controlled by President Paul Biya ("Our Africa"). Though the Republic of Cameroon stands firm behind the fact that Biya has not been involved in corruption cases himself, some cabinet members including a presidential doctor, interior minister, and former prime minister have been jailed due to their involvement in cases linked to bribery and embezzlement. Furthermore, according to data collected by the Country of Origin Service in 2008, 7,000 to 45,000 "ghost employees" (positions in public service paid normal salaries without a person doing their job) were found in the public sector of Cameroon ("Transparency International Cameroon Report 2016").

Cameroon's judicial branch has also been heavily criticized for its role in corruption. Judges commonly accept bribes in exchange for lessened sentences or even a dismissal of the case. Judges and lawyers often do not have enough resources at their disposal to conduct proper investigations and court hearings are usually delayed. The Cameroonian police force is also heavily unreliable. Most officers are poorly trained and equipped. Almost all officers, including customs, request and accept bribes and arrest and abuse civilians in exchange for monetary gains. Currently, 45% of Cameroonians believe that most or all of their government is corrupt ("GCB").

To address its citizens growing doubt of their government, the Republic of Cameroon has made significant progress over the years in implementing solutions to combat corruption. To begin with, Cameroon already criminalizes acts of bribery (including foreign persons),

corruption, and extortion in its Penal Code. The aforementioned crimes all carry a prison sentence of 5 years to life, and a minimum fine of \$4000 USD along with asset loss (“GAN Business Anti-Corruption Portal”). Furthermore, in an amendment to its Constitution in 1996, Cameroon added a clause requiring public officials to declare their assets and liabilities upon taking office. The Sanctioning of Corrupt Magistrates Law along with the Cameroon Tax Code both declare acts of corruption illegal. In March of 2006, President Paul Biya formed the independent body, National Anti-Corruption Commission of Cameroon (CONAC), to evaluate the government’s anti-corruption efforts. CONAC, also has jurisdiction to conduct investigations which can lead to legal proceedings in all branches of government. CONAC is supervised by the president, and has become more active over the years. In August of 2017, CONAC held a 2 day workshop in Ebolowa to work with the public to develop better anti-corruption practices for 2018 (“Anti-Corruption Authorities 2015”).

Cameroon has also adopted a number of international treaties and documents to combat its corruption. It signed and ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on February 6, 2006. Cameroon has yet to ratify the African Union Convention in Preventing and Combating Corruption (“Transparency 2016”). Furthermore, in recent years, the Cameroonian government has arrested dozens of public officials on corruption charges. These have included high ranking members of government such as the Economy Minister, Polycarpe Abah Abah, who was found to have embezzled over \$11 million USD. These arrests are a clear sign that Biya is finally taking action to fight what the director of CONAC once called “social cancer” (“Reuters”).

III. Possible Solutions:

With public sector corruption damaging many African nations' private sectors and economies, it is imperative for more effective solutions against corruption to be implemented by the African Union. Based off its own experience with fighting corruption and after thoroughly analyzing attempts by other nations, the Republic of Cameroon has come to the conclusion that government transparency is the most effective and least aggressive way to counteract public sector corruption. With the AU calling 2018 the "African Anti-Corruption year", now is the time for Africa to unite under a strong plan for battling corruption ("AllAfrica"). To accomplish this, Cameroon proposes two unique solutions that it believes will change Africa for the better.

The first solution Cameroon proposes is for Member States of the AU to agree to make public three basic documents about the government's budget: the President's budget proposal, the legislature's budget plan, and an annual budget outcomes report that includes the year's government expenditures and off-budget transactions. This agreement, though non-binding, will encourage governments to release the Presidential budget by January of 2020, the legislature's budget by 2023, and the annual budget by 2026. Giving three year gaps between publication deadlines will allow governments time to make the proper adaptations to their current budget spending and government practices to satisfy the public and government needs.

By making these three documents public, countries in Africa will see a decrease in public sector corruption and increase in their GDP and overall exports. In Cameroon, this is especially true. According to an analysis from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), an international organization centered around mining, Cameroon has no current policies for the "publication of beneficial ownership data" for mining companies. As a country with rich deposits of crude oil, natural gas, gold, marble, diamond, and other natural resources, Cameroon has long

been involved in the mining industry. However, over the years, Cameroon has seen a decline in its production and selling of its resources. Precious metal production and sales have fallen by over 50% since 2014 (“EITI”). This has led to Cameroon’s GDP falling significantly over the past three years. By publishing more budget information from the government, international confidence in investing in Cameroon’s mining industry will lead to increased revenue. Such falls in GDP can be seen in other African nations such as Egypt and South Africa (“Google”).

However, even when governments publish budget data, the possibility that the data could be false still exists. To address this concern, the Republic of Cameroon turns to blockchain technology. Blockchain technology is a recent innovation that has allowed for currency to become decentralized from any government or bank. The way this works is simple. To begin with, there is a finite amount of money in the blockchain platform. When a transaction is requested, a signal is sent to blockchain computers around the world. These computers verify the transaction then deduct money from the consumer’s account and add it to the vendor's account. Then, this transaction is added to a public ledger of all transactions that have occurred on the blockchain platform (“Forbes 2017”). Because almost every transaction is public, extreme transparency can be achieved. Furthermore, both public and private sector corruption can also be easily tracked by anyone viewing the ledger. Many politicians throughout the globe already have begun to see the benefits of blockchain technology in our modernizing world. Former British Prime Minister David Cameron said earlier this year that what “most excites me is the potential that your technology has to fight corruption and to deal with failures of governance and governments and the rule of law all over the world” (“Business Insider 2017”). The Brazilian

government, still recovering from a series of corruption cases involving its president, has stated that it would try to use blockchain technology fight corruption in the near future (“NewsBTC”).

The Republic of Cameroon proposes that Member States of the AU sign an agreement to allocate \$500,000 USD from the AU’s Advisory Board on Corruption’s budget to fund research in using blockchain technologies as currency throughout Africa. The Advisory Board on Corruption has a budget of \$1,376,408 USD (“AU 2016”). This money would be used in either creating a new blockchain platform specifically for African countries, or searching for methods in which preexisting platforms can be integrated into African society. Whatever method is identified should be easily accessible by mobile phone, the way that many Africans use to pay (“World Bank”). Cameroon also asks that Member States sign an initiative to implement a blockchain currency trial throughout the continent by 2024. Such a trial would involve a designated part of each country’s population to purchase and sell goods using a blockchain platform that the Advisory Board on Corruption has identified through their research. Each participant in the trial would receive a set amount of currency on his/her smartphone, and would have two weeks to use it in place of their normal currency. Throughout the trial, each country should allocate a committee to oversee their population’s trial under the supervision of the Advisory Board on Corruption. These committees should track where the cryptocurrency travels and if any is illegally used. At the end of the trial, the Advisory Board must compile and present their findings to the AU General Assembly and a vote can be held on whether or not to continue pursuing blockchain technology as a solution to public sector corruption in Africa.

The government of Cameroon has already shown its openness to using blockchain technology through its trial of digital currency similar to Bitcoin (a common type of

cryptocurrency) called Trest with 500 citizens. The results were promising and the government even looked into using Bitcoin in its country as well, but found that electricity costs would be too high (“Lielacher Alex 2017”). Furthermore, a number of promising blockchain startups in Africa like CamerBitcoins (from Cameroon), ChamaPesa (from Kenya), and NairaEx (from Nigeria) have already been formed (Young 2017). Clearly, there is a growing interest for blockchain in Africa. Though there are a number of obstacles in the way to a transparent Africa, the Republic of Cameroon is confident that its fellow nations can come together to implement unique solutions that do not damage the power of current governments and will ultimately unlock the full economic potential of Africa.

IV. Questions To Consider:

Question 2: Over the past decade, a rise in globalism and technology has allowed for the world economy to reach an unprecedented \$74 trillion USD, of which only 10% is from Africa (“Visual Capitalist 2017”). Such a figure demonstrates huge hurdles that the African continent must overcome as a whole to bring its economy on par with the rest of the world. Among these hurdles is public sector corruption. Public sector corruption has long been associated with directly impacting a country’s economy. To address Africa’s longstanding problems with corruption, there have been calls for national anti-corruption agencies and global agreements to prosecute and expose more corruption cases. Yet, as is the case in many countries, these solutions only weaken and distract the government and therefore its economy. In the case of Cameroon, the rumors that the chairman of its own anti-corruption organizations, CONAC, was being prosecuted on charges of corruption led to outcry from the global community even after rumors were dispelled (“allAfrica”). Furthermore, many civilians have even wrongly accused

Cameroon's President of using corruption charges to prosecute political rivals ("Kindzeka 2017"). For these reasons, the Republic of Cameroon strongly endorses plans that promote government transparency through document publications or other forms. Such plans, should be developed with input from civilians so that a fair balance of power between government and governed can be reached. Rumors and misunderstandings between the public and government can also be avoided in this way. Examples of citizen inclusion, such as CONAC's meetings with Cameroonians to discuss corruption reform in 2018, have been met with much approval and success. Such plans do minimal harm to the central government and do not distract it too much from fulfilling its economic duties.

Question 2: One of the large causes of public sector corruption in Africa can be attributed to its colonial history. From the late 19th century until the mid 20th century, European colonization of Africa and harsh practices like forced labor lead to poor relationships between foreign rulers and African peoples. Furthermore, the for-profit based mentality that most African colonies were run with, led to a flawed system of corruption and unfair exploitation of the local populace. Many of such practices have carried over into modern day Africa even after the withdrawal of European forces ("ChickaforAfrica"). To address such problems, the Republic of Cameroon strongly believes that it should be Africa that solves its problems without foreign interference. For too long has the continent of Africa been pulled by the strings by foreign puppeteers. If other nations outside of Africa should like to contribute monetary aid, or provide advice on how to promote anti-corruption initiatives, then they may do so. But in the end, it should be the united African peoples who draft resolutions to solve their problems and forge an Africa that truly belongs to them.

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