



Press Release

In accordance with the press release of 30 June 2017, the Diaspora Representatives Council (COREDI) gathered to meet in Washington - DC from August 24th to August 27th 2017.

The working sessions of the Council, which started with an official audience granted by H.E. Henri Etoundi Essomba Ambassador of Cameroon to the United States of America on August 25th in Washington DC, were focused on:

- The review of the draft summary report of the FODIAS 2017;
- The creation of an action plan and a roadmap post FODIAS, submitted to the appreciation of the MINREX, the diaspora, and any other interested third parties.

Washington - DC, August 27th 2017 at 6:26 PM.

Mme Yvette Ballet
Switzerland Representative

Dr Samuel Dongmo
United States of America Representative

Mr Jean Baptiste Essomba
Gabon & Sao Tome Representative

Mr Jérôme Monteu Nana
Germany Representative

Mr Charmant Ossian
England and Ireland Representative

Dr Serge Bakoa
France Representative
Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Camerounais

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ROADMAP AND ACTION PLAN

FODIAS 2017



Work Sessions Washington-DC from August 24th to August 27th 2017 / Post-FODIAS Action Plan and Roadmap

1. 10 Core FODIAS Recommendations

FODIAS 2017 Recommendation 1	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
Examine the possibility of creating a State Secretariat in charge of the diaspora	1/ Comparative analysis of similar experiences in a sampling of African countries (Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Ghana for example) by a joint committee Government - COREDI	December2017	Analysis Report
	2/ Structuration and scope of the attributions and objectives of the State Secretariat	At the Government discretion	Report



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FODIAS 2017 Recommendation 2	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Envisage the available options of creating a fund to support the investments of Cameroonians in the diaspora.</p>	<p>1/ Comparative analysis of a sampling of international experiences (existing Diaspora Funds in the world) as well as existing Cameroonian experiences (as examples: Cadidec in Germany, Casa-Net Diaspora Fund in Switzerland, First Trust Team in USA, Efficiencie Africa Fund in France)</p> <p>2/ Choice of the right economic model for the Cameroon Diaspora, based on the following principles: domiciliation of the fund in a country where this activity is major and fiscally attractive; establishment of innovative funding mechanism (Diaspora Bonds, voluntary subscriptions, share on remittances); support of the Government through the Autonomous Amortization Fund</p> <p>3/ Effective creation of the Investment Fund</p>	<p>December 2017</p> <p>March 2018</p> <p>November 2018</p>	<p>CORDI expert reports</p> <p>MOU with the Government</p> <p>Paperwork for the creation and the registration of the diaspora investment fund</p>



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FODIAS 2017 Recommendation 3	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Establish a database of Cameroonians in the diaspora-highlighting their socio-professional categories and various competences.</p>	<p>1/ Review of existing information including data bases, files, and various documents located in Cameroon (SGPR, Prime Minister Office, FNE, and other Institutions) and abroad (Embassies)</p> <p>2/ Creation by the COREDI of the requirements and the statement of work for the database including: the scope and objectives, the content, the users...</p> <p>3/ Definition of the budget and the financing of the project</p> <p>4/ Selection of the service provider and signing of the service contract</p> <p>5/ Authoring of the Project Plan of the database project</p> <p>6/ Deployment and official launch of the database, voluntary subscription, data security.</p>	<p>November 2017</p> <p>November 2017</p> <p>December 2017</p> <p>March 2018</p> <p>May 2018</p> <p>August 2018</p>	<p>Government reports and documentation</p> <p>Statement of Work (SOW) from COREDI</p> <p>Business Plan</p> <p>Formal contract</p> <p>Project Plan</p> <p>Database</p>



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FODIAS 2017 Recommendation 4	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Explore the possible ways of improving on the quality of fosterling and chancery services- with the view of facilitating the processing of entry clearance for Cameroonians in the diaspora.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The COREDI would like to stress out the fact that the improvement of the quality of reception and services also concerns the various Government services in Cameroon</p>	<p>1/ Review of the existing services, inventory of the needs and benefits for the Diaspora in Cameroonian Embassies and local Government Institutions</p> <p>2/ Recommendations of the improvements to be implemented such as: one-stop shops, toll-free number, e-government, dedicated offices (legal protection, health protection, repatriation of bodies, entrepreneurship, other consular services)</p> <p>3/ Evaluation questionnaire (survey) for monitoring the quality and effectiveness of the services provided to the Diaspora in Cameroonian Embassies and local Government Institutions</p>	<p>December2017</p> <p>March 2018</p> <p>March 2018</p>	<p>Fact sheets</p> <p>The related tools and solutions put in place by the Government</p> <p>On-line questionnaires, quarterly evaluation reports prepared by the Government, and rakings</p>



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FODIAS 2017 Recommendation 5	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Establish public access information systems to strengthen Government's policy on communication.</p>	<p>1/ Inventory of all Government institutions, affiliated Government institutions, and decentralized agencies with a public documentation service</p> <p>2/ Creation by the COREDI of the requirements and the statement of work for the database of public documents</p> <p>3/ Definition of the budget and the financing of the project</p> <p>4/ Selection of the service provider and signing of the service contract</p> <p>3/ Authoring of the Project Plan (identification of data sources for the database, migration of the documentation in the central datawarehouse)</p> <p>5/ Deployment and official launch of the public documentation database, data security.</p>	<p>November 2017</p> <p>December 2017</p> <p>December 2017</p> <p>March 2018</p> <p>June 2018</p> <p>December 2018</p>	<p>Report</p> <p>SOW</p> <p>Business Plan</p> <p>Contract</p> <p>Project Plan</p> <p>Database of public documents is functional</p>



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FODIAS 2017 Recommendation 6	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Involve the diaspora in the construction of a digital identity for Cameroon to facilitate innovation and youth entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>1/ The COREDI proposal in the areas of Innovation and youth entrepreneurship through digitalization: knowledge transfer, transfer of expertise, and technologies transfer, training, coaching, mentoring, networking, incubation, bootcamping, hackathon</p> <p>2/ Database of Diaspora based entrepreneurs who specialized in ICT.</p> <p>3/ Institutionalize and strengthen the ICT, R&D and Innovation Days already organized in Cameroon by the Diaspora</p> <p>4/ Participation of the Diaspora in (i) the elaboration of the draft Innovation bill as requested by the MINRESI, (ii) the implementation of the National Innovation Strategy, et (iii) the Working Groups of the Research and Innovation Fund</p> <p>5/ Reinforce the incentives that can benefit Diaspora ICT entrepreneurs (investment incentives, research and innovation tax credits, etc.)</p>	<p>December 2017</p> <p>December 2017</p> <p>Yearly events</p> <p>December 2017</p> <p>ASAP</p>	<p>Technical proposal</p> <p>Database</p> <p>Innovation Days</p> <p>Joint committees MINRESI-COREDI created and at work</p> <p>New regulations or directives</p>



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FODIAS 2017 Recommendation 7	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Examine the possibility of signing Agreements with friendly countries, with the goal of facilitating the processing of the social security benefits of Cameroonian workers living abroad.</p>	<p>1/ Review existing Agreements (Cameroon and other African countries)</p> <p>2/ Review of the social protection systems in the countries of residence of the Diaspora</p> <p>3/ Identification of key social security points for Cameroonian workers abroad (employees, contractors, liberal professions, freelancers, students, retirees, among others)</p> <p>4/ Negotiation, conclusion and wide dissemination of agreements favoring the interests of the workers in the Diaspora</p>	<p>December 2017</p> <p>December 2017</p> <p>December 2017</p> <p>During 2018 and subsequent years</p>	<p>Reports</p> <p>Reports</p> <p>Reports</p> <p>Agreements</p>



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FODIAS 2017 Recommendation 8	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
Establish a health mapping and a diagnosis of the equipment needs of healthcare facilities in Cameroon and share the data with the Cameroon diplomatic network.	1/ Elaboration by the COREDI experts of the methodology for the audit of the healthcare technical offering and the national health mapping	October 2017	Requirements and SOW
	2/ Inventory of the healthcare technical offering (i.e., medical and paramedical logistics) of Cameroon	June, 2018	Reports
	2/ National health mapping	June 2018	Reports
	3/ Creation of the directory of Medical, Paramedical and Biomedical experts in the Cameroon Diaspora	August 2018	Database
	4/ Recommendations	October 2018	Reports



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FODIAS 2017 Recommendation 9	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Explore funding options for management and training of artists as well as the creation and conservation of museums and galleries.</p>	<p>1/ Use of the Diaspora Investment Fund,</p> <p>2/ Other fundraising mechanisms tailored to the specific need, since the methods of financing art, culture, research, or education may be different</p>	<p>November 2018</p> <p>November 2018</p>	<p>Paperwork related to the creation and the registration of the Diaspora Investment Fund</p> <p>Experts' reports on a case by case basis</p>



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FODIAS 2017 Recommendation 10	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Establish a special permanent organ to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the recommendations of FODIAS.</p>	<p>Strategic committee for monitoring the implementation of the FODIAS recommendations. This body is placed under the authority of the Prime Minister, Head of Government. It is structured in the form of a Supervisory Committee and a Technical Secretariat.</p> <p>The Oversight Committee, chaired by H.E. the Prime Minister himself, coordinates and evaluates all operations contributing to the implementation and the monitoring of the recommendations of the FODIAS. In this capacity, it is responsible, among others, for ensuring the effective implementation of those recommendations. The Technical Secretariat, the operational body for monitoring the implementation of FODIAS, is under the joint authority of the MINREX and the COREDI. It is responsible for setting the modalities for the mobilization of resources necessary for the implementation of FODIAS. This body is equally composed of members of the Government and by members of the diaspora represented by the COREDI.</p>	<p>End of September 2017</p>	<p>The technical monitoring secretariat submits to the Supervisory Committee a quarterly report describing the level of implementation of the FODIAS recommendations</p>



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2. Additional Diaspora concerns not fully explored during the FODIAS 2017, but to be taken into consideration

Diaspora concern 1	COREDI Recommendation	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
Social peace, national unity, security of persons and property, territorial integrity	The COREDI proposes its permanent mediation for any existing or future difficulties between the Diaspora and the Government on matters relating to social peace, national unity, security of persons and property, and territorial integrity	Permanent inclusive dialogue Meetings / and discussion sessions and exchanges between the COREDI extended to interested Diaspora members and the Government, according to an agreed upon timetable between the parties	Immediately	Minutes of meetings and discussion sessions produced in French and English and disseminated to the public, and in particular on the websites of the Prime Minister and the COREDI

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Diaspora concern 2	COREDI Recommendation	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Dual citizenship</p> <p>Article 32 of the Law of June 11 1968 on the Nationality Code provides that "a Cameroonian woman who marries a foreigner shall retain her Cameroonian nationality, unless she expressly declares at the time of the marriage and under the conditions laid down in Article 36 and following of this Law, repudiate that capacity "</p>	<p>The Government shall instruct embassies and police services operating at the borders of Cameroon to apply the provisions of Article 32 of the Law of June 11 1968.</p>	<p>Constant reminder of the law</p>	<p>Immediate for the women of the diaspora who fall within the scope of this law</p>	<p>Free movement of these women in and outside the national territory without requiring anything other than Cameroonian identity documents</p>

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Diaspora concern 3	COREDI Recommendation	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Projects submitted by the members of the Diaspora</p> <p>During the FODIAS, each delegation was invited to provide a list of projects submitted by its members. This list was given to the organizers of the FODIAS</p> <p>In addition, the COREDI is aware that in the framework of the bilateral cooperation, some Development Partners of Cameroon (German GIZ and French AFD) have made available to Cameroon financing support for projects of Diaspora entrepreneurs</p> <p>Cf Joint press release MINREX - AFD of 30 August 2017</p>	<p>For the sake of transparency and fairness, the COREDI recommends the publication by the Government of the complete list of projects submitted to the FODIAS as well as the list of projects which it has selected and wishes to support.</p> <p>The COREDI also recommends informing the Diaspora on the status of the ongoing negotiations with the GIZ and the AFD</p> <p>Representatives of diasporas from countries other than Germany and France are invited to contact the Development Agencies of their respective countries (USAID for the United States, UKTI for the United Kingdom for example) to find out about similar opportunities</p>	<p>Publication by the MINREX of the list of all the projects submitted by members of the diaspora in the annex to the final report of the FODIAS.</p> <p>Dissemination by the MINREX and the COREDI of diaspora business investment support options</p>	<p>End of September 2017</p>	<p>Listing of projects submitted by the members of the Diaspora</p> <p>Listing of project selected by the Government</p>



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Diaspora concern 4	COREDII Recommendation	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Priority Projects in Cameroon</p> <p>The Government has a list of priority projects for which it is seeking investors.</p>	<p>In order to strengthen the information of the members of the Diaspora, the COREDI recommends that the Government makes available to its Diaspora the list of its priority projects</p>	<p>Dissemination of priority projects on the FODIAS and COREDI websites</p>	<p>December 2017</p>	<p>List of priority projects established by the Prime Minister office and the MINEPAT</p>



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Diaspora concern 5	COREDI Recommendation	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Promotion of Cameroon abroad</p> <p>In foreign affairs relating to Cameroonian public institutions (tourism, culture, economy, finance, sports, lobbying, public relations, press relations, humanitarian relations among others), the Government does not sufficiently solicit and involve its Diaspora</p>	<p>The diaspora should organize itself in order to be in a position to effectively contribute to promote Cameroon abroad.</p> <p>The Government should give priority to the professionals of its Diaspora for the promotion of Cameroon abroad</p>	<p>Cameroon's promotional marketing strategy developed jointly by the COREDI and the Government</p>	<p>March 2018</p>	<p>Reports</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding</p>

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Diaspora concern 6	COREDI Recommendation	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>Education and training in Cameroon</p> <p>Education and training issues (initial and continuing) in Cameroon are among the top concerns of several members and associations of the Diaspora.</p> <p>During the meeting that took place in Brussels in August 2017 between the Government and the Diaspora, the Ministry of External Relations announced the upcoming organization of an Education and Training Forum in Cameroon.</p>	<p>The COREDI is asking the Government to invite the Diaspora to participate to the upcoming Education and Training Forum</p>	<p>Correspondence sent by the COREDI to the Government to solicit the participation of the Diaspora to the next Education and Training Forum</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<p>Correspondence of the COREDI</p> <p>List of members of the Diaspora in the education sector provided by the COREDI</p> <p>Reply from the Government</p>



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Diaspora concerns 7	COREDI Recommendation	Process / Methodology	Timeline	Expected Deliverables
<p>safeguarding and protecting Diaspora Investments in Cameroon</p> <p>During the meeting that took place in Brussels in August 2017 between the Government and the Diaspora, the MINJUS (Ministry of Justice) announced the upcoming organization of the General States of Justice in Cameroon</p>	<p>The COREDI proposes to the Government to invite the Diaspora to participate to the next General States of Justice announced by the MINJUS</p>	<p>Correspondence sent to the Government by the COREDI in collaboration with the Association of Cameroonian Jurists of the Diaspora (CJD)</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<p>Correspondence of the COREDI</p> <p>List of members of the Diaspora in the law sector provided by the COREDI in collaboration with the Association of Cameroonian Jurists of the Diaspora (CJD)</p> <p>Reply from the Government</p>