

Security Council Crisis 2020

Each delegation will send 1 representative to the Security Council meeting on Friday. Preparation is essential. Please watch each video and read the following information to get a grasp of the situation. The bloc meeting (a geographical group of nations) is where you will discuss the situation and write a brief resolution outlining your region's plan. Feel free to do additional research on your own. Be prepared and ready to contribute your ideas!

#1- Watch this Geography Now! Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xyR8lgjzMA>

An energetic video from 2015 that covers general information about Cameroon. It starts with explanation of flag, regions. Please pay close attention to these sections listed below:

At 4:00- physical geography

6:50- demographics

8:40- politics

9:40 – disputes & relationships

#2 Watch this Drew Binsky video from October 2018- observations about the situation in Cameroon; a good introduction that doesn't take sides.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYnxT6KK2Sw>

#3- A very simple explanation of the crisis: Citizens in southwest and northwest Cameroon are primarily English speaking (Anglophone). In September of 2017 they declared their intent to separate from Cameroon (where 80% of the population speaks French, called Francophones) and establish their own nation called Ambazonia. French speakers control the government and hold much power. Anglophones feel marginalized, powerless and frustrated.

Today's conflict can be traced to late 2016, when English-speaking lawyers and teachers organized peaceful protests, a movement born of frustrations that the government had assigned French-speaking judges and teachers to English-speaking courts and schools. English speakers claimed that officials in Yaounde (the capital city) were essentially forcing the minority Anglophones to assimilate into Francophone legal and educational systems.

The government claims to have initially agreed to some reforms but also cracked down on the activists, jailing a number of moderate leaders and killing some protesters. The original activists watched from prison as more-extreme voices, those calling for full separation from Cameroon, drowned out what had started as less-aggressive demands.

Both sides have become more extreme, violent and insistent on getting their way. People have fled the nation, displaced by violence, and the situation is deteriorating into a civil war. Can the two sides come together to talk?

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/world/cameroon-anglophone-crisis/>

Overview: from <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2019/cameroon>

President Paul Biya has ruled Cameroon since 1982. His Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) has maintained power by rigging elections, using state resources for political patronage, and limiting the activities of opposition parties. Security forces use violence to disperse anti-government protests. The conflict between security forces and separatists in the Anglophone Northwest and Southwest Regions has intensified, resulting in widespread civilian deaths and displacements.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2018:

- President Paul Biya won a seventh term in October's presidential election, which was marked by low turnout and a lack of genuine democratic competition. Threats of violence and intimidation in the Anglophone Northwest and Southwest Regions made voting nearly impossible in some areas. Senatorial elections in March 2018 resulted in the ruling CPDM winning 63 of 70 contested seats.
- In July, the government announced that local and legislative elections scheduled for October 2018 would be postponed until October 2019, citing the logistical difficulty of managing presidential, legislative, and municipal elections concurrently.
- The conflict in the Anglophone regions worsened throughout the year, with increased civilian deaths and displacements. Intense fighting between separatists and security forces threatened to escalate into civil war.
- The government continued to crack down on journalists and civil society leaders who criticized policies in the Anglophone regions.

Executive Summary

Source:

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/cameroon/272-crise-anglophone-au-cameroun-comme-nt-arriver-aux-pourparlers>

Cameroon's Anglophone crisis is deadlocked. Twenty months of clashes have killed 1,850, displaced 530,000 and led tens of thousands to seek refuge abroad, but the government and the separatists are sticking to their irreconcilable positions. The separatists continue to dream that independence is just around the corner. In Yaoundé, the government still wrongly believes it can win a quick military victory. To break the deadlock, Cameroonian and international actors should put pressure on the government and the separatists. Both sides must explore compromise solutions aimed at a level of regional autonomy somewhere between the secession desired by the separatists and the fake decentralization proposed by Yaoundé.

VI. How to Establish a Dialogue?

The Anglophone crisis is deadlocked: the government and the separatists are sticking to their irreconcilable positions and neither can win a military victory in the short term.

Breaking the deadlock requires strong internal and international pressure. Cameroonians who advocate compromise solutions (civil society, opposition, Anglophone federalists and supporters of decentralisation) should pressure the government and the separatists to participate in the Anglophone General Conference and, subsequently, a national dialogue. Francophone Cameroonians have a special role to play in political parties, churches and society at large, to show the government their solidarity with their Anglophone compatriots. But faced with the belligerents' hard-line stance, internal actors cannot succeed without resolute international support. International actors can encourage the parties to the conflict to make concessions, reward those who agree to moderate their positions and sanction those who stand in the way of dialogue. But they should first reach a common position.

A. Build Trust and Break the Cycle of Destruction

Resolving the Anglophone crisis will ultimately require the government and the Anglophones to put their views directly to each other. This must include the separatists, given their control over the armed

militias. Some mutual concessions could build trust between the belligerents and break the cycle of destruction. International actors should push for reciprocal concessions at each stage to ensure that talks do not stall.

The government:

- The President of the Republic should adopt a conciliatory stance, acknowledge the existence of the Anglophone problem and that the security forces have committed abuses and agree to take into account Anglophone demands for autonomy.
- He should order investigations into abuses by the security forces, make provision for reparations to victims and start reconstruction of affected areas.
- He should undertake a major reshuffle of the government and senior levels of the administration and defence and security forces in order to purge those who fuel the conflict with hate speech, and to integrate non-separatist Anglophones who are seen as credible by the Anglophone populations.
- He should indicate a willingness to respect the Anglo-Saxon features of the Anglophone education and judicial systems.

The separatists:

- The separatists should first begin an internal dialogue. The more pragmatic among them should urge their colleagues, including those who have lost family members, to understand that the armed struggle will receive no support from international actors and that it represents a political cul-de-sac. Once the currents of opinion within the separatist movement have achieved a common position, they could begin discussions with the federalists prior to talks with the Cameroonian government.
- To show their good faith, they should abandon their school boycott strategy.
- The separatists are likely to continue to insist that talks should cover separation. However, given that international actors do not support secession, they should be ready from the start to discuss other options that would meet Anglophone demands for greater autonomy and respect for their regions.

Getting to Talks and the International Support

It will not be easy to get to talks, given that the separatists do not recognise the legitimacy of the government, which, in turn, will not tolerate any questioning of the unity of the state. Moreover, Yaoundé believes it has already made too many concessions and points out that it

has already launched several dialogue initiatives. International action is crucial for organising an inclusive dialogue.

Final talks between the government and Anglophone representatives, including the separatists, should take place in Cameroon in the presence of mediators. The authorities must guarantee the security of participants and grant safe passage to separatist representatives.

The most credible mediators in the eyes of both parties – the UN, African Union, Switzerland, Catholic Church have already offered to mediate. Given the profound disagreement between the two sides and the current or potential divisions within them, preparatory discussions will be complex and could take time. It will therefore be important to put together an international team equipped with the political weight and enough experience to get people to change their positions, put pressure on Yaoundé and mobilise the support of other key actors, such as Nigeria.

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) should state her intention to launch preliminary examinations of abuses committed by both sides. This could encourage the government to initiate its own investigations and, depending on the outcome, start criminal proceedings, as well as deterring others from further abuses against civilians. That would also show the separatists that their violent actions spark international disapproval.