

The Centre for Research on  
Democracy  
And Development in Africa  
(CEREDDA)



Le Centre de Recherche pour la  
Démocratie  
et le Développement en Afrique  
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**A REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH  
ON DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT (CEREDDA) COVERING  
THE PERIOD 2023-2024**

**PLANTATION HOUSE, WOYANGA, BUEA.**

## INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Research on Democracy and Development in Africa (CEREDDA) was created in May 1993 as an indigenous Pan-African Think Tank to provide civil society perspectives and African-centred framework to the continent's democratisation, governance and development problems.

In December 2012, the Founding Members met and resolved to formally register it as a Research and Policy association in conformity with the provisions of Law 90-53 of December 1990. Therefore, on January 22, 2013 the organisation started functioning by Prefectural Order Authorisation N° 006/G.37/-D14-/-1--/VOL II/SAAJP of 22 January 2013 with its headquarters in Buea under the motto "*Unity, Development and Service*". CEREDDA was transformed from an Association to a Non-Governmental Association (NGO) by Ministerial Order N° 000000002/0/MINAT/SG/DAP/SDIP/SONG/BA of 01 April 2020. The revised CEREDDA have as objectives to:

- Inform and Stimulate debate on African issues and the activities of Pan-African organisations such as the AU, the ECA, and the ADB;
- Promote a culture of research, policy analysis and advocacy in Cameroon and Africa;
- Carry out research and consultancies for private and public organisations on all issues related to the democratisation process in Africa;
- Enhance public awareness and understanding on the issues of peace Development in Cameroon and Africa through special events such as conference, seminars, exhibitions, festivals;
- Collect literature and statistical data on governance, peace, security, humanitarian action and Development problems in Africa;
- Organise exchange programmes for Africanist Fellows, Researchers and other research institutes on issues related to democracy, governance, cultural preservation and development;
- Publish independent research works as manage a CEREDDA Publishing House;
- Mobilise resources for research projects relevant to the organisation

### ***CEREDDA as a Continental CSO***

CEREDDA participation at the composite election into the 4th ECOSOCC permanent general assembly and the 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the 4th ECOSOCC permanent general assembly that

took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 6th – 9th December 2022. Thus CEREDDA’s representative to the composite election Dr. Eyole Nganje Monono was elected as one of two CSOs members representing Cameroon at the 4th Permanent General Assembly;

Established under the provisions of Articles 5 and 22 of the African Union’s Constitutive Act, ECOSOCC is the vehicle for building a strong partnership between governments and all segments of African civil society. The Statute of ECOSOCC, adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2004 defines it as an advisory organ of the African Union composed of different social and professional groups of the Member States of the African Union.

During the 2nd Ordinary Session of the 4th Permanent General Assembly holding in Nairobi, Kenya 11 - 13 December 2024. Dr. Eyole Nganje Monono, of CEREDDA was elected as Chair of the Political Affair Cluster Committee of the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC). AU-ECOSOCC as a consultative organ of the African Union in its Article 11 of the ECOSOCC Statute stipulate that the Sectoral Cluster Committees are established as key operational mechanisms of ECOSOCC to formulate opinions and provide inputs into the policies and programme of the African Union.

Under the Political Affair Cluster Committee headed by Dr. Monono, the following issues will be the focus of the cluster he is chairing;

- Human Rights and Rule of Law
- Democratic and Constitutional Rule
- Good Governance
- Electoral Institutions
- Humanitarian Affairs

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME**

The objective of this programme is to raise public awareness and generate action on the implementation of the Africa Charter on Democracy, Election and Governance (ACDEG). During the period under review, CEREDDA was involved in Election Observation in Cameroon, Central African Republic and under AU Observer Mission in Nigeria and Ghana.

### ***The CEREDDA National Election Observation Missions***

Between 2022 and 2023 CEREDDA trained and deployed over 50 national observers in various electoral consultations all over the national territory. The organization received accreditation to observe the March 12<sup>th</sup> Senatorial Elections in Cameroon. The organization sent out 31 National Observers in all the ten (10) Regions.

### ***The CEREDDA International Observer Missions***

The President of CEREDDA was a member of the African Union Election Observation Mission in the February 2023 Nigerian Elections and the December 2024 Elections in Ghana.

As part of CEREDDA expansion and extensive experience in Elections Observation in Cameroon, the Centre was accredited by the National Elections Agency of Central African Republic to deploy 8 (eight) International Observers for the July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Constitutional Referendum in CAR.

The CEREDDA team presented their preliminary findings to H.E Professor Faustin-Archange Touadéra, President of Central African Republic. Equally a press briefing at the Central African Republic Presidency was given. The CEREDDA Observers were also received in audience by the Central African Republic Minister of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Local Development, were the team developed and present a copy of an “Election Observer Guide” for consideration in future elections in the country. Courtesy Visit to H.E Nicolas Nzoyoum, Cameroon Ambassador to Central African Republic, were the Ambassador was briefed on the preliminary findings of the July 30<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Referendum in CAR.

With regards trainings CEREDDA participated at the training programme on electoral conflict analysis from the 15-17 May 2023. The training organize in collaboration with the Foundation for Peace and Solidarity, The International Relation Institute of Cameroon and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pissa Italy seeks to equip participants with applied knowledge and technical skills to effectively diagnose and prevent electoral violence through conflict analysis.

### ***Democracy and Governance***

On the invitation of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), the African Union Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), and the East African Civil Society Network (ECONet), CEREDDA was invited to participate in a three-day training for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) focused on applied early warning and managing political

transitions in Africa. The training will be held from November 20-22, 2024, at the Lake Greenfield Hotel and Tower, Abuja, Nigeria.

This training builds on previous Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT) - Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) dialogues on challenges and supports their engagement in political transition processes. AFSIT is a UNDP-African Union Commission (AUC) joint initiative providing integrated programmatic support to African countries undergoing complex political transitions. It offers niche, evidence-informed and context specific investments that support institutional reforms to enhance governance and safeguard development. In addition, AFSIT partners with CSOs to strengthen their role in regional governance and political transitions. As part of this initiative, the training aims to enhance the capacities of CSOs on early warning and response applications to political transitions on the continent. A key intended outcome is for participants to strengthen peer-to-peer learning and adaptive skills among CSOs and establish a collaborative framework to enhance AFSIT's operational impact and sustain early warning and response efforts across the continent.

### ***The Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (HRIHL)***

Within this period CEREDDA actively participated in the African Union 2<sup>nd</sup> Humanitarian Youth Forum from the 15-17 May 2023 in Antananarivo - Madagascar on the theme "Harnessing Youth Potential in Response to Humanitarian Crisis"

The President of CEREDDA and The Head of CEREDDA Development Unit did presentations in the forum on the "The Road Map and Existing Legal Instruments to be employed by the Africa Union for a framework of the new Humanitarian Agency" and on the "Role of Youths in the Implementation of the African Union New Humanitarian Agency"

The Centre actively participated in the British Institute for Eastern Africa's Workshop on Nationality, Identity and Citizenship in Kenya on 25 June 2023. This workshop was geared at discussing perspectives and trends on nationality, ethnicity and citizenship in Africa. Participation to this workshop was upon registration, free and virtual.

CEREDDA also participated in the Experts Conference on the eradication of statelessness and access to legal identity documentation in the Great Lakes Region, 25 – 27 July 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. This conference had as objective to enhance the capacity and the ability and the capacity of Great Lake countries to respond to issues of statelessness as well as to improve on the issue

of legal/ identity documentation of its people. Participation to this conference was sponsored by UNHCR.

The Centre actively participated in the celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) at 75 in 2023. The centre organized a sensitization seminar at the University of Buea in collaboration with the Department of French Private Law on 12-13 November 2023. The seminar aimed at going through the achievement and progress made in the domain of promotion of Human Right in Cameroon and Africa.

CEREDDA was also associated with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) at 75 webinar organized by Lusaka Branch Office of the Dag Hammarskjöld Institute For Peace And Conflict Studies (DHIPS) and The Copperbelt University (CBU) on Friday, December 15th, 2023. The Coordinator of CEREDDA Dr. Eyole Nganje Monono, Member of ECOSOCC 4<sup>th</sup> PGA represented the ECOSOCC Secretariat and presented a paper on "The UDHR @75: Some Historical and Contemporary Reflections from an African Perspective." With the Sub-Topic: The UDHR@75 and Africa's Engagements: Stakes and Perspectives.

At the end of these sessions to celebrate UNDRH@75 the participants were encouraged to remain committed to the promotion and protection of the human rights of all especially people of African descent for whom, in consultation with the Geneva-based Permanent Forum for People of African descent, the UN is currently seized with the drafting of a new Declaration calling for the full Respect, Protection and Promotion of the Human Rights of all People of African Descent.

CEREDDA also participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> African Union Humanitarian Symposium that took place from the 21 – 23 November 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. During this Symposium, the CEREDDA Programme Officer in attendance gave a presentation on the overall situation of statelessness in Africa.

The Centre again, participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Union Humanitarian Youth Forum which took place in Lusaka, Zambia from 8 – 9 November 2024 which had as theme “Youth involvement in Free Movement and Humanitarian Crises in Africa, an in-depth examination of challenges and opportunities”. The CEREDDA staff in attendance was involved in the session discussion on “Intergenerational Engagement”. CEREDDA’s participation in this forum was sponsored by the African Union Commission.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (ADP)**

The objective of this programme is to raise public awareness and debate on African development issues. During the period under review, CEREDDA had been active on the following projects:

- Environment, Land and Sustainable Development;
- Youth Development and Inter-generational Dialogue;
- Women in Development and Gender Dialogue;

The Programme Director was moderator of the Public hearing of CSOs from Central, East, West and North Regions on the Legal Framework of the Draft Model Law on Gender Equality and Equity holding from April 22 - 24, 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya

CEREDDA in collaboration with EmpowerHer Tech Foundation celebrated the Pan-African Women's Day in a Virtual Conference on July 31st, 2023. The Theme of the Virtual Conference was “*Empowering Women's Leadership in a Changing Africa: 60 years After*”. The aim of the conference was to discover the power of African women leaders and their journey towards an equal future in a post-pandemic world. This ground breaking Virtual Conference brings together trailblazing women in leadership roles, experts in cyber security, digital marketing, and health equity, to inspire, empower, and celebrate the achievements of women across Africa.

CEREDDA equally engaged between May 6 – 18, 2023 in supporting and empowering Internal Displaced Women and Girls through Income Generating activities and skill building in Buea. The activities in partnership with a Better Future seeks to support displaced women to be self-sufficient.

CEREDDA started a yearly “Youth Career Orientation Series” with modules such as: Purpose, Passion, Profession and Career; Volunteerism: A path to a professional career; Milestones of a professional career; drafting a winning CV and Motivation letter. This yearly began in June 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 in Buea at the Mount Cameroon Eco and in 2024 it took place in Limbe (Emmanuel Baptist Church Bota – Limbe). The aim of this series is to give an opportunity the opportunity to connect school and professional life, it is also an avenue for staff at the delegation of Youths and Civic Education to present available opportunities for youths at their ministerial department. In 2025 the Series will continue with more interesting thematic geared towards empowering youth’s entrepreneurship, career coaching and civic Education.

In the domain of environment and climate change CEREDDA in partnership with Reachout Waste Management Association organised a 2 days' workshop for teens (ages 9-16 years) on "Sustainable Waste Management" from August 10-11, 2023. The aim of this workshop was to inculcate in teens good habits of waste disposal, understand from them what their understanding of waste is and how they manage waste in their communities.

## **THE CEREDDA PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION PROGRAMME**

As a Think Tank and policy institute involved in knowledge production, the dissemination of research and other materials is very important. The CEREDDA dissemination programme covers modern communication tools in the print, fairs, audio-visual, and social media such as:

- The CEREDDA Publishing House;
- The *African Conscience Magazine*, *CEREDDA Newsletter*, *The African Journal of Democracy and Development*;
- The CEREDDA Library and Documentation Centre;

The CEREDDA library is now fully open to students, researchers and the general public; the library has a wide range of books, magazines, official gazettes, newspapers, bulletins and partner with the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC) as a reference centre with the corporation Annual Reports since creation.

Experts from CEREDDA in collaboration with the University of Bangui carried out a Study in December 2023, the conclusion of the study entitled: *"Central African Republic 2016-2023 on the Road to Renaissance: A Critical Approach to the Reflection on the Making of Authoritarianism in the Central African Republic"*.

The study summary is:

*In October 2023, three months after the successful holding of a constitutional referendum described by national and international observers as having "taken place in an orderly, calm, peaceful and serene atmosphere (...) (with) a generally free, transparent, credible, and legitimate character", Roland MARCHAL published a study entitled "Central African Republic: The Making of an Authoritarianism" at the Presses de Sciences Po. This reflection challenged the team of researchers from CEREDDA and the University of Bangui, who have already been gathered since the beginning of 2023 to collect field data on political governance in the Central African Republic. This is how the present study was initiated, the aim of which is to show that CAR appears today as a State in full regeneration. Indeed, the country's*

*reconstruction process, which began in 2016 under the active leadership of President TOUADERA, has so far given rise to a series of internal and external reconfigurations that now constitute the basis for peace, stability, and all-round development. However, there are important challenges that could undermine the current momentum. The shedding of light on the motives of the Renaissance in Central African Republic thus calls into question all the hypotheses developed by MARCHAL, which, in a global way, are distinguished by a real construction of opinion. To achieve this, the study basis itself on a methodological and theoretical field that uses qualitative data collection techniques including direct observation, interviewing, documentary research, systemic analysis, sociological constructivism, the geopolitical method, and classical realism in International Relations.*

CEREDDA actively participated at the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the Evidence Fair (La Foire aux Savoirs) from May 15 - 16, 2024 organized by the Global Development Network (GDN) in Dakar, Senegal. The Fair had as objective to create a space of exchange and collaboration between Think Tanks in the Sahel region. It aimed equally to promote exchange of knowledge and expertise for a better reinforced capacity of researchers. During the Fair the CEREDDA Delegation took part in transformative workshop on the "Communication for Young Researchers in the Sahel", this workshop explored, writing policy briefs and improving social media research Communication.

In the course of the Fair, CEREDDA took part in a Panel Discussion on the topic "Challenges of Political Violence and Dis-information (Fake News) during Political Process in Africa: Lessons for the Sahel Region" the CEREDDA communication were given by Dr. Atanga Ondo (Senior Researcher), it was also an opportunity for CEREDDA to show case its publications.

CEREDDA Publishing House

During this period under review, the CEREDDA publishing House has release the following books;

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## FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

According to its Articles of Association, CEREDDA's main sources of financing come from registration fees, library and research fees, special financial contributions from members, gifts, grants and subsidies, the sale of its products such as books, audio and video CDs. Between 2023 and 2024, the status of income for the organisation was as follows:

Source of Financing	2023	2024
Registration Fees	140.000	140.000
Library & Research	39.000	45.000
Special Contribution	2.000.000	1.000.000
Gifts and Grants	950.000	500.000
Carol Concerts	0	0
Sales of Books	1.000.000	850.000
Book launches	0	500.000
Sale of CDs	0	0
Secretariat Services	36.000	23.000
Consultancies	1.200.000	500.000
Subsidies	0	0
Total	5.329.900	3.558.000

The special financial contributions from members came from the President, H.E Churchill Ewumbue-Monono (3.500.000 cfa) and the Secretary-General, Hon, Etoke Fritz (1.500.000 cfa). Most of the organisation's resources however came from the sale of its products such as:

## EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

During the period under review, the organisation's main expenditure activities were in organising special events such as book publishing, book lunches, workshops and seminars, election training seminars, election observation, acquisition of documents and furniture, production of artist, office renovation, payment of staff, sponsoring base research and payment of rents and bills.

Expenditure	2023	2024
Book and other Publications	200.000	500.000
Organising Book Launch		300.000
Election Training Seminar	250.000	
Election Observation	1.500.000	

Acquisition of Documents	100.000	100.000
Acquisition of Furniture	0	250.000
Seminar/Conference	500.000	500.000
Sponsoring Cultural Groups	200.000	0
Sponsoring Carol Festivals	0	0
Research/Interns	300.000	200.000
Office Renovation	0	0
Staff Salaries	1.500.000	1.500.000
Bills	200.000	200.000
Total	4.750.000	3.550.000

## **STATUS OF FINANCIAL REPORTING**

The foreign travel and activities out of Cameroon, where finance entirely by International organizations like the African Union, Pan African Parliament, ECOSOCC, Government of the Central African Republic...

Money collected for the organisation was deposited in a bank for safe keeping. The CEREDDA Accounting Officer keeps an Impress Account for the day to day administration of the organisation. No disbursements were done from Impress Account nor withdrawals from the Bank without the expressed approval of the President.

The three Signatories to the Bank Account were designated by the Executive Bureau, with the possibility of two of signatories to withdraw. The CEREDDA Account No 08831683601 is lodged at ECOBANK, Molyko Buea.

Apart from the internal auditing of the accounts by the organisation's auditing mechanism, CEREDDA also intends to improve its system of financial reporting and accountability by engaging the services of an external financial auditor, Chief Esambe of Yoke, Muyuka.

## **CONCLUSION**

The report of CEREDDA's activities between 2023 and 2024 shows that since its transformation into NGO, CEREDDA has succeeded in asserting itself as an important Pan-African Think Tank on democracy and development in Cameroon. It has been a lead organisation in election observation for instance, training and federating the activities of other civil society organisations and observing in areas many other organisations cannot go. It has

equally been a major actor in promoting pan-Africanism and African cultural renaissance in a practical manner.

The signing of an MOU with the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation for tutelage and supervision. The relationship has been cordial as the delegation oversees the organisation's progress report, annual programmes of action and External Auditor. The is looking forward in 2025 to engage more and more with the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education as it seeks to promote Youth Empowerment activities.

The President

**Churchill EWUMBUE-MONONO**