

# Cameroon at the Head of the Peace and Security Council

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**Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono Outlines Cameroon's Priorities for its PSC Presidency in September.**

## **Introduction**

The CPS Report asked Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono to present Cameroon's priorities for its September mandate.

## **Cameroon's Priorities and Strategic Directions**

To start, a public session will be held at the ambassadorial level on the theme of protecting journalists and freedom of information in conflict zones. There will then be a discussion on civil-military relations and conflict management in Africa. Another public session will be devoted to the management of disasters in the context of climate change, peace, and security. Furthermore, experts will discuss harmonizing programs in Africa's defense and security academies in collaboration with the Africa Trainers' Association for peace support. Our main meeting will focus on new security threats and the future of the PSC. We have also planned two field missions: one to the Central African Republic to launch the amnesty month and another to Gabon to assess progress in the transition.

## **Protection of Journalists in Conflict Zones**

The role of the media in peace and security is often neglected. Traditionally, media are viewed as serving various interests, when in reality, they play a central role in fueling or mitigating conflict. Propaganda, fake news, hate messages, and even genocides are closely tied to media activity. The protection of journalists in conflict zones is a matter of international humanitarian law — a debate ongoing since 1975. To respond to this, we initiated a session with UNESCO, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Federation of African Journalists.

## **The Future of the PSC — Why It Was Chosen as the Summit Theme**

As a former journalist myself, I am particularly sensitive to the dangers journalists face in war zones, notably the risk of being targeted by warring parties and the

challenge of operating in an environment where disinformation is pervasive. I appreciate the political significance of the PSC's discussions on this subject.

### **General Assembly Summit — Future of the PSC in a Changing Security Climate**

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the PSC, and each month focuses on a different theme. For September, we chose the future of the PSC, particularly in light of new security threats. This falls within the framework of the 79th General Assembly's peace discussions and the Dar es-Salaam Declaration of May 2024. We will reflect on how these new security challenges might affect the Council and how it can adapt and grow stronger.