



**Service Œcuménique
pour la Paix**

**Ecumenical Service
for Peace**

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ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR PEACE (SEP) ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT FOR 2017

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The year 2017 has not been a busy year for the Ecumenical Service for Peace. in spite of this, during this year, SeP's activities are concentrated around the key axis of the organization which were:

- Improve access to justice
- Promoting Greater transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs
- Promoting democracy and responsible citizenship
- Promoting peaceful participatory approach to community Resolving conflicts
- Transforming SeP into a vibrant and responsive organization

The SeP drafted and submitted projects to several Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) which are still being evaluated. As a result, most of the activities carried out by the SeP have been done through partnerships within the networks or have been self-financed. The Norbert Kenne Memorial Peace House continued to provide services to clients.

Also, an ordinary General Assembly session was convened within the year. Major decisions were taken at this assembly as this report presents. The organisation also focused on capacity building of target groups, outreach programs and gave support to some volunteers who were admitted within the organization.

1. NGO ACTIVITIES

NGO activities focus around the key axis of the organization spelt out in its strategic plan which are:

- A. Improve access to justice
- B. Promoting greater transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs
- C. Promoting democracy and responsible citizenship
- D. Promoting peaceful participatory approach to resolving community conflicts
- E. Transforming SeP into a vibrant and responsive organization

1.1. IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

1.1.1. - Participation at the National Engagement Strategy on Land Governance

The National Engagement Strategy (NES) was put in place in the face of the land reform process in Cameroon with the objective of putting on the agenda of Government, the concerns of the vulnerable population. It has a working group and a pilot committee. Its global objective in Cameroon is to contribute to create an environment with land policy which takes into account land rights and the interest of vulnerable people such as small farmers, women and local population, guaranteeing their socio-economic and cultural welfare.

The Ecumenical Service for Peace participated in a working group which came out with the concerns to be tabled to policy makers with regards to the land reform process in Cameroon. The organisation also participated in the meeting presenting the various case studies carried out by the different working groups concerning the proposals to be taken into consideration by decision makers when elaborating the legal framework on land governance in Cameroon.

1.1.2. The Case study on “CDC Land Surrender” and the Escalation of the Bakweri Land Problem.

SeP in partnership with NES , realized in 2017, an case study on the Bakweri Land Crisis concerning the illegal dispossession of Bakweri indigenes from their lands occupied by CDC since January 1947 and the efforts made by the Bakweri land claim committee for this land to be restored. Through the efforts of the Bakweri Land Committee, pressure has been brought to bear on the Cameroonian government, nationally and internationally, to address the Bakweri Land problem. It became more complicated and serious when the government started the process of privatizing the CDC in the early 1990s without addressing the Bakweri land claims. The process of land surrender put in place by government, in order to restore some of the land to the Bakweri, has led to the landbeing grabbed, stolen, by administrators such as SDO's and DO's as well as others who occupy privileged government and private positions, all this in connivance with some sons and daughters of Bakweri. The problem remains crucial and the impact far-reaching. It requires a concerted approach between the Bakweri and the government to resolve this issue.

1.2. PROMOTING GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1.2.1. Strengthen the capacities of social leaders of EBEDA, NTUI and SOA cities on monitoring local projects

SeP has led a project to strengthen the capacities of social leaders of EBEDA, NTUI and SOA cities on monitoring local projects.

- Contribute through capacity building of social leaders, ensuring citizen control of the effective implementation of public projects and for efficient management of available funds.

workshops were pursuing two main specific objectives:

- To train the social leaders identified in the cities of EBEDA, NTUI and SOA, in collecting data on current projects in their communities, and their monitoring;
- Create a monitoring committee in each of the target areas, consisting of at least ten (10) local social leaders trained;

ACTIVITIES	REALIZATION	OBSERVATION
1. Identification and Awareness of the social Leaders.	102 identified leaders divided as follows: EBEDA (30) NTUI (35) and SOA (37).	
2. Identification of training topics.	Organization of one-day workshop composed of two consultants and three representatives of the identified leaders helped to identify the training topics.	
3. Development of a Training Manual.	Elaboration of a document to participants by consultant. And multiplication in 105 copies.	
4. Training of 90 social leaders on the monitoring of the projects	91 trained leaders as follows: EBEDA (28) NTUI (31) and SOA (32)	
5. Establishment of project monitoring committees	9 Project Monitoring Committees set up in EBEDA (3), NTUI (3) and SOA (3)	Each local committee, a list of projects included in the "newspaper project" programmed in their locality has been awarded by the SeP. They can benefit from the support of SeP during monitoring.

1.2.2. Participation at the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) meeting

The Ecumenical Service for Peace been a member of the committee from the civil society component, the Director represents the organisation and participates in the decision making process of this platform. For the year 2017, the organisation participated in the preparation of the conciliation and the validation reports of the EITI for the year 2015. The Director was also member of a working group charge with the proofreading the final validation report. The recommendations gotten from this work group served to ameliorate the writing of the report. The Director also took part in several other committee sessions and media campaign concerning the EITI.

1.2.3. Participation at the Publish What you Pay Cameroon(PWYP Cameroon) activities.

SeP is one of the founding member organizations of PWYP Cameroon. As such, he contributed to the various activities of the network in 2017, notably by taking part in various network meetings, producing articles for the network magazine.

1.3. PROMOTING PEACEFUL PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO RESOLVING COMMUNITY CONFLICTS

1.3.1. Participation at the Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms (CANSA) Activities in 2017

The Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms is a network of civil society organisations working to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons within the national territory. Created in January 2004 on behalf of the civil society and in solidarity with the entire Cameroonian, its executive bureau was renewed following a General Assembly which took place in November 2017. This assembly witnessed the voting of the Ecumenical Service for Peace at the vice presidency of the organisation.

The major activity carried by the organisation within the frame of this workshop was the global week of action against gun violence which runs from May 07 to May 14 of each year. A series of activities were organised together with a partner organisation (CAMYOSFOB). They include: Participation in TV and radio talk shows, Consultation with core members of the Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms to kick start the process of reorganizing the network to take into consideration other UN mechanisms such as the ATT, NPT, press conference to brief the press and the Cameroon people on the strides the government of Cameroon in collaboration with the civil society is making to conform to International Standards against the proliferation and misuse of small arms including the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention on SALW in Central Africa, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and UN Program of Action on SALW (PoA). The Ecumenical Service for Peace is looking forward to organise its own activities which goes in with the global objective of the network.

1.4. PROMOTING DEMOCRACY AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

1.4.1. Organization of a training workshop on what peace and democracy is all about

The Ecumenical Service for Peace has as mission to contribute to the non-violent social transformation of the society. On the ways of doing so is by organising activities aimed at promoting peace and responsible citizenship in Cameroon. In 2017, the key activity in the said area was the organisation of a training workshop on what peace and democracy is all about.

The workshop took place at the N Robert Kenne Memorial Peace House, head office of the organisation and witnessed the participation of civil society leaders, university lecturers, students and members of church groups. Modules such as what is peace, challenges to reconciliation, skills for a peacebuilder, understanding democracy and recent political development in Cameroon were explained by the facilitators. At the end of the evaluation, participants decided to engage themselves to actively promote peace and democracy in Cameroon.



1.5. OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

During the year 2017, the Director was constantly on media to inform, sensitize and educate the population on one thing or the other.

The Director was on CRTV news, magazine programs and morning Safari to talk on the extractive sector and the EITI process in Cameroon. The Ecumenical Service for Peace has naturally assumed the position of the spokesperson of the EITI. Other press organs through which the Director reached out to speak about peace, democracy, governance, community conflict management and increase the organisation's visibility include Vision 4, The Post, Le Jour, Le Messenger. The organisation also took position on the Anglophone crisis condemning violence from both civilian and the military and call for peaceful solution to be found through an inclusive dialogue.

1.6. TRANSFORMING SEP INTO A VIBRANT AND RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION

1.6.1. Organization of general assembly

Ecumenical Service for Peace (SeP) organized its General Assembly on 16 September 2017 at the Norbert Kenne Memorial Peace House in Nsimeyong Yaounde. The General Assembly meeting saw the participation of over 20 pastors of the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon (PCC) and Eglise Evangelique du Cameroon (EEC), civil society organizations and former workers of Ecumenical Service for Peace.

The meeting was chaired by Pastor Tembeng Emmanuel of the Presbyterian Church, Simbock Parish.

The key points of the agenda consisted of:

- ¾ A presentation by the Director of the organization, Dr. Ndi Richard Tanto
- ¾ A presentation by the Board of Administration
- ¾ A financial statement of the organization by the accountant, Evelyn Manda
- ¾ General Discussions
- ¾ Revamping the Board and staff of the organization

The presentation by the Director captured his tenure at the head of the organization for the last seven years and perspectives while that of the Board presented by Mr. KEUMOE Jean defined the role and activities of the Board of administration in overseeing the activities of the organization. The financial report outlined the income and expenditure for 2016.

After the presentations, general discussions followed. Major debates focused on the new orientations of the organization. A committee was set up to prepare a new strategic plan. It was agreed that an extraordinary General Assembly would be convened to approve of the new strategic plan and proceed with review of Board membership.

On the subject of a new Director for the organization considering that Dr. Ndi Richard Tanto had announced his intention to leave the organization because of family reasons, a new interim Director was nominated in the Person of Fomekung Solomon Hope, and endorsed by the General Assembly. The outgoing Director was asked to work with the new Interim Director for a period of 10 days to ensure a smooth transition for the stability of the organization.

In his acceptance speech, Fomekung Solomon Hope thanks the Board for proposing him for the post and the General Assembly for endorsing him. He promised to put his best at the service of the organization and to ensure that the mission and vision of the organization are promoted.

1.6.2. Changes at the Staff

The main change in SeP staff was the departure of Dr. NDI Richard TANTO after 7 years of loyal service. He was replaced by Mr. Fomekung Solomon Hope.

1.6.3. VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

The Ecumenical Service for Peace offered possibilities for internship and volunteering to a couple of people. This has given the opportunity to discover the organization and its activities.

In 2017, four of them were admitted to offer their services to the organization. They include

- Tchekankou Donald who worked at the secretariat
- Fonou Ghislain who worked at the project development unit
- Tchouamou Dany who worked at the project development unit
- Tchoumegni Hugues who worked at the communication department
- Adelaide Kolokou who worked at the library

The volunteers and intern helped the Director immensely in the implementation of some activities. They also gave support in attending meetings and project conception and elaboration.

DIFFICULTIES FACED

The major difficulties in the management of SeP in 2017 can be summed up in two points:

- Lack of funding is a serious handicap for the redeployment of SeP.
- Insufficient staff is also a major obstacle to the re-launching of SeP.

4. CONCLUSION

Generally, the year 2017 was a busy year at the Ecumenical Service for Peace. It was also a transitional year as it witnessed the coming into office of a new young Director in the person of Fomekung Solomon Hope. We hope this change will bring in a new impetus and revamp the organization.

Considering that it is increasingly difficult to attract external funding, more efforts will be made to secure local funding. A strategic plan presenting the activities of the organization for the three upcoming years shall be elaborated and presented to financial partners for possible funding.

