

Cameroon National Day Special

Multilateral cooperation is critical to progress

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On May 20, Cameroon celebrates the 54th anniversary of its National Unity Day under the theme of “National Unity: backbone of our defense system, bedrock of Cameroon’s development.”

On this special occasion and on behalf of the government and people of Cameroon, I wish to convey my warmest compliments to their imperial majesties, the Japanese government, the Diet and the Japanese people.

As a founding member of the Organization of African Unity, which later became the African Union, Cameroon’s diplomacy is enshrined in peace promotion, regional unity and stability, noninterference and active multilateralism. In my country’s world view, building robust multilateral cooperation architectures is the key condi-

tion for peace, prosperity, friendship, solidarity and mutual understanding among nations, and Cameroon has been playing a pivotal role to this end at both regional and international levels.

The following international and regional activities and initiatives our country has led and hosted over the past two years are just a sample of the long-lasting dedication of Cameroon and President Paul Biya to strengthen multilateralism and international solidarity.

Cameroon presided over the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly from September 2024 to September 2025. During this term, my country continued its work and advocacy on global issues such as peace, sustainable development, human dignity and the reform of the U.N. Security Council.

Cameroon’s presidency was notably marked by the adoption of the Pact for the Future on Sept. 22, 2024, which reaffirms global commitment for sustainable development, peace and security, digital cooperation, youth and global governance.

I would like to renew my government’s appreciation for Japan’s contribution to Cameroon’s successful completion of this presidency.

Moreover, on July 9 and 10, 2025, Yaounde hosted the International Conference on the Sustainable Blue Economy in the Gulf of Guinea, which gathered 16 nations, along with U.N. and Gulf of Guinea Commission officials. The meeting was concluded with the adoption of the Yaounde Declaration, by which several African Nations committed to sustainably manage ocean areas under national jurisdictions by 2030. On this issue as well, I wish to commend Japan’s government for its continued support for maritime law enforcement capabilities in the Gulf of Guinea coastal region, a commitment that was reiterated in August 2025 during the ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama.

Last, by hosting the World Trade Organization’s 14th Ministerial Conference from March 26 to 30 in Yaounde, Cameroon has further endorsed its commitment to

multilateralism at a critical time where the temptation to return to unilateralism is growing in many parts of the globe. It was the second WTO ministerial meeting ever organized on African soil.

Trade ministers and senior officials from 166 member countries, experts and other civil society representatives gathered for four days to tackle issues such as trade barriers, electronic commerce, WTO and dispute settlement reforms, trade-related intellectual property, fisheries subsidies and investments facilitation. The participation of an important delegation from Japan, which actively contributed to the success of this important meeting, was greatly appreciated by my government.

Since its independence in the 1960s Cameroon has been working tirelessly to bring its tiny stones to the construction of our common global cooperation architecture. I am convinced that by strengthening cooperation and solidarity among our nations, humanity will be better equipped to handle global, regional and national challenges more efficiently.



**President of
Cameroon
H.E. Paul Biya**
EMBASSY OF
CAMEROON

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

**Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Cameroon
on the Anniversary of
their National Day**



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