



**MINDDEVEL**

MINISTRY OF DECENTRALIZATION AND  
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

# NATIONAL WORKSHOP *on the* MODERNIZATION *of* RLAs

*Unlocking Digital Transformation for an  
Effective Modernization of RLAs*



Yaounde Conference Centre,  
22 and 23 April 2025



# 01

## BACKGROUND TO THE WORKSHOP

Under the impetus of the Head of State, the decentralization drive is making further progress with the enactment of major instruments such as the law on local taxation and the law on the organization of the civil status registration system in Cameroon. These reforms herald a new era for local governance, being institutional modernization.

Launched in 2019 during the General Conference of Local Councils, this strategic reflection is continuing today with a main thrust: digital transformation as a lever for modernizing RLAs. This approach responds to the new aspirations of the population while consolidating the achievements of the first phase of decentralization.

In this context, the Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development, with the support of all key players, is organizing a National Workshop on the Modernization of Regional and Local Authorities on 22 and 23 April 2025 in Yaoundé.

This event aims to lay the foundations for more effective, inclusive and resilient local governance.

It forms part of the development of the National Decentralization Strategy (NDS) and is a key step in supporting the entry into the new election cycles scheduled for 2025 and 2026. It will provide an opportunity to capitalize on current mandates, identify persistent challenges, and suggest concrete solutions for future local elected officials.



## OBJECTIVES

1. Diagnose the current situation of management of RLAs in Cameroon.
2. Support RLAs in appropriating the law on the organization of the civil status registration system in Cameroon and the law on local taxation.
3. Analyze the population's new aspirations and the changes imposed by the environment.
4. Learn lessons from the current mandates of local authorities and make practical recommendations to guide the actions of future local elected officials.
5. . Identify and plan actions to be undertaken by various players as part of this new strategic thrust.
6. Ensure that recommendations arising from the workshop align with the guidelines of the National Decentralization Strategy (NDS), to incorporate them into the final NDS paper.

## SELECTED THEMES

### Theme No. 1

#### Digitizing local finances: a lever for transparency and efficiency

##### Main players

**MINFI,**  
MINDDEVEL, FEICOM

##### Participants

- MINEPAT, MINPOSTEL, MINTP, MINESEC, MINMAP, MINADER, Presidents of Regional Executive Councils (PREC), Presidents of Regional Councils (PCR), Association of City Mayors of Cameroon (AMVC), UCCC (Mayors), SG/RC, SG/CC, SG/C, Regional Treasurer CT/CC, CT/Council, French Development Agency (AFD), World Bank, UNDP, GIZ - UNICEF.

##### Discussion thrusts

- Diagnosis of local financial management and conceptual clarifications.
- Distribution of roles and responsibilities in the new financial architecture.
- Stakes, tools and mechanisms for the digitization of local finances.
- Capacitation of RLAs and conditions for appropriating digital tools.

### Theme No 2

#### Digital civil status registration: stakes and prospects

##### Main players

**BUNEC,** MINDDEVEL

##### Participants

- MINJUSTICE, MINEDUB, MINESEC, MINSANTE, MINPROFF, MINPOSTEL, MINFI, MINAS, DGSN, ANTIC, NIS, ARC (REC and RC), AMCM (City Mayors), UCCC (Mayors), Secondary civil status registration officers, Civil status registration secretary, UNICEF-KOICA - UNDP.

##### Discussion thrusts

- Current situation, challenges and issues in the computerization of the national civil status system.
- Innovations introduced by the reform (Law No. 2024/16 of 23 December 2024 to organize the civil registration system in Cameroon).
- Financing options to be mobilized for an efficient/optimum digital civil registration.
- The role of civil registration players in the new legal and institutional architecture.
- Benefits and risks of the digital transition.
- Actions to be taken for the successful implementation of the master plan for the computerization of the national civil status system.
- A comparative approach: practices in countries with similar incomes.
- The expected impact of the computerization of main, secondary and specialized civil status registration centres.

### Theme No 3

#### Digitalizing human resources management in Regional and Local Authorities

##### Main players

**MINFOPRA,** MINDDEVEL, NASLA

##### Participants

MINEFOP, MINTSS, MINFI, ARC, AMCM, UCCC, Representatives of deliberative organs, SG, GIZ, FENDETCAM - UNDP - unicef

##### Discussion thrusts

- Applicable legal framework;
- Problems of secondment or availability in local authorities;
- A local public service;
- Automation of HR management in RLAs.

Theme No 4

**Digitizing local planning tools**

*Main players*

**MINEPAT, MINDDEVEL, PROLOG**

*Participants*

MINHDU, MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINEDUB, MINMAP, MINFI, MINDCAF, ANTIC, ARC, AMVC, UCCC, SG/RC, SG/CC, FEICOM, KFW, RAINBOW Study firm, FISCAGEST Study firm - UNDP - UNICEF

*Discussion thrusts*

- Raise awareness of the importance of developing local planning tools.
- Identify existing planning tools in RLAs and the feasibility of digitizing them.
- Align and disseminate local planning tools.
- Ensure local planning digital monitoring.
- Raise awareness among RLAs of the added value of ICT in land use planning and development.
- Map available digital facilities (Internet access, equipment, technical skills of council staff).
- Publicize and communicate local planning tools currently in use in RLAs.
- Understand and analyze the transfer of local planning powers and resources.
- Run digital platforms with updates on local and regional planning.
- Designate and train focal points to run digital platforms, as they relate to local and land-use planning aspects.

Theme No 5

**Local governance and e-participation: what strategies for effective citizen participation?**

*Main players*

**MINDDEVEL, ARC, CVUC, AMVC**

*Participants*

MINPOSTEL, Municipal Councillors, PIC, FEICOM, SG/RC, SG/Council, PROLOG, Representatives from Neighbourhood Committees, Representatives from Village Committees, GIZ, UNICEF, ONUFEMMES, UNDP, CSOs, AFD.

*Discussion thrusts*

- What are the prerequisites, challenges and issues of e-participation?
- How can we operationalize citizen participation through digital mechanisms?
- What kind of digitization is required to ensure effective and efficient citizen participation?
- How can citizen control improve governance?
- What are the strategies for securing web portals?
- How do you manage workflow through these portals?
- What mechanisms are required to involve citizens on a massive scale and effectively in local governance?
- How can we capitalize on social networks to get local people involved in local governance?