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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by First Modern Agro. Tools - Common Initiative Group (FI.MO.AT.C.I.G), non- governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[11 February 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Compromised decolonization, the right to self-determination under international law and the quest for sovereign statehood by the Anglophone Linguistic Minority in Cameroon

The United Nations defines human rights generally, as ‘those rights which are inherent in our nature and without which we cannot live as human beings.... They are based on mankind’s increasing demand for a life in which the inherent dignity and worth of each human being will receive respect and protection’. It further states that ‘[t]he denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms is not only an individual and personal tragedy, but also creates conditions of social and political unrest, sowing the seeds of violence and conflict within and between societies and nations’. The right of *all peoples* to self-determination gained recognition in the context of decolonisation and has become one of the core universally recognised human rights, which by virtue of its *erga omnes* status, states are obligated to ensure its realisation. The foundational chapters of the UN Charter guarantee that respect for the right to self-determination constitutes one of the primary purposes of the United Nations in maintaining universal peace and security. In the African Charter, the right to self-determination is guaranteed to all the peoples of Africa as an ‘unquestionable and inalienable right’ by virtue of which, ‘[t]hey shall freely determine their political status and shall pursue their economic and social development according to the policy they have freely chosen. The African Charter further states that ‘[c]olonized or oppressed peoples shall have the right to free themselves from the bonds of domination by resorting to any means recognized by the international community’.

In the light of this understanding of the right to self-determination as a universally recognised human right, I question why the people of the UN Trust Territory of the Southern Cameroons have since from the time of decolonisation been denied the right to self-determination to exist as a sovereign state like other states that equally emerged from colonial rule. In this presentation, I will illustrate the various instances where the right to self-determination guaranteed to the peoples of the Southern Cameroons (Ambazonia) has consistently been denied, amounting to a flagrant violation of international law and a breach
