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The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

^{*} The present statement is issued without formal editing.





Statement

There have been many calls for inclusive dialogue to end the Anglophone crises in Cameroon. But who are the relevant stakeholders in the dialogue? Who is to call for dialogue? When and where are inclusive dialogues to be held? What is preventing the dialogues? On what are the dialogues going to be based on?

It is true that the Head of State can initiate a program for dialogues to be held. Likewise, a third party for instance an NGO or CSO or an individual having the capacity can act as a mediator. But the main issue in the crises is the form of the state.

The main stakeholders fighting with arms in these crises are those for cessation or separation and the government that stands for decentralization. Though there are other movements such as those who stand for federation, including a two-state federation, four-state federation and ten-state federation. However, these are not relevant stakeholders causing the crises or war. These cannot be invited in the dialogue as it would only lead to more confusion. Open dialogues in a conflict should have no preconditions; however, both parties have preconditions.

It would be difficult for the Government to call for dialogues with preconditions that the form of the state is not negotiable and unchangeable, that decentralization process is being accelerated and would be completed. Whereas the other party has a precondition that dialogues would only focus on separation terms.

It can be foreseen that since both parties have preconditions, going to the dialogue table would end up in chaos and anarchy. But a mediator (NGO or CSO or an individual) can conveniently convince both parties to go to the dialogue table without preconditions and with a different dialogue theme such as peace and stability.