

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix – Travail – Patrie

**MINISTERE DE L'EMPLOI ET DE LA
FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE**

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace – Work – Fatherland

**MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND
VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

**IV MEETING OF THE MONITORING AND RESTRUCTURING
COMMITTEE (MAC4) OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING
PROGRAMME OF OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES
YAOUNDE, 26-27 NOVEMBER 2012**

**OPENING SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT AND
VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

- **Ministers ;**
- **Heads of Diplomatic Missions;**
- **The Director General of the Statistics, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) ;**
- **Senior representatives and focal points of partner institutions;**
- **Distinguished guests ;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen ;**

It is a real pleasure for me to chair this day, the opening ceremony of the 4th meeting of the Monitoring Committee and Restructuring (MAC4) of the Vocational Training Programme of member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

But before anything else, let me wish our guests a warm welcome to Cameroon and thank all participants for suspending their usual duties to come here and show interest in vocational training issues.

I truly appreciate your kind words, Mr Director-General, to the entire Cameroonian government which implements the policy defined by His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon.

I would like to express to the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), government's recognition for the choice of Cameroon to host this

meeting. Government's recognition also goes to our privileged cooperation partners in general and the OIC in particular, for their multifaceted and permanent support.

It is with enthusiasm that I chair in my capacity as Minister of Employment and Vocational Training, the opening ceremony of MAC4, under the distinguished patronage of the Prime Minister, Head of Government.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The creation of the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training in December 2004 occurred in a context marked by:

- i) the development of an employment crisis that continues and grows, becoming increasingly intolerable ;
- ii) the seriousness of the problems related to employment and vocational training;
- iii) strong recommendations from the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Ouagadougou in September 2004 that put job creation at the centre of economic and social policies to reduce poverty and improve the living conditions of populations.

The Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training therefore appears as a major strategic tool for the development of vocational training, an essential link in the drive against youth unemployment.

The missions of this ministry are, among others, to develop and implement government policy in the field of Employment, Vocational Training and Occupational Integration.

Since its inception in 2004, the ministry has initiated multiform actions to contribute to the development of human capital (job seekers, workers, graduates without professional qualifications, etc..) and to meet the specific needs of the labour market.

It should be noted that the Education Sector Strategy (ESS) validated in 2006 recommended that MINEFOP should regulate the flow of school leavers without qualification, from the various sub-sectors of education (primary, secondary, tertiary) estimated 150,000 young people per year by 2015. This presupposes that the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training is responsible for giving these young people the skills they need to find or create jobs. In the same vein, the **Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP)** has recommended convincing and skills-based approach vocational training.

It has therefore been incumbent on MINEFOP, since 2004, to make every effort to provide qualifications to young people, workers and job seekers in view of the major infrastructure projects and the emergence of the country by 2035. The Ministry has developed and validated policy instruments with partners in the socio-economic and professional sectors, namely:

- **the National Employment and Vocational Training policy document;**
- **the Vocational Training Strategy ;**
- **the National Vocational Guidance interim Policy document.**

All actions and activities to be carried out have been based on engineering which includes: the development of training and evaluation programmes, the legal and regulatory framework, partnerships, infrastructure and support to private vocational training structures.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, the world is currently facing a number of dominant trends that dictate both its structure and its evolution. In this context, it is possible to observe that among the major challenges facing governments around the world, are prominent issues related to unemployment, under-employment, competitiveness of domestic workers and development of human capital.

Aware of this situation, the governments of each country have been continuously developing and implementing innovative and ambitious national policies and strategies but whose influence and scope have mostly proved to be fragmented and incomplete, since they do not always take into account all aspects of the problems identified and do not systematically integrate the exchange of good practices that have had resounding success elsewhere and could be repeated at the national level.

Thus in Cameroon and on the strength of this observation, we clearly identified the need to share and dialogue on relevant projects and programmes in each of our countries, but their implementation has led to mixed results, all the action of SESRIC and the Vocational Training Programme for OIC Member Countries precisely fall in line with this participatory approach.

As the Director General of SESRIC pointed out, the Vocational Training Programme for OIC Member Countries is prepared by SESRIC to improve the quality of vocational training in the public and private sectors for the purpose of supporting and increasing opportunities for individuals in the member countries to improve their

knowledge and skills and contribute to the development and competitiveness of economies.

The main objective of the Yaounde meeting is to review the progress achieved since the third session of the MAC and discuss ways of collaboration to better implement innovative projects in the vocational training programme. It will therefore be a question of establishing a strong partnership between OIC member countries in the field of vocational training to improve the quality of human resources necessary for the development of national economies. More specifically, the meeting aims to:

- Promote exchange between those involved in vocational training programmes to increase the level of manpower placement in companies;
- Improve the quality and capacity of innovation of Vocational Training systems;
- Facilitate the transfer of innovative practices;
- Increase the volume of cooperation between vocational training structures, companies and social partners;
- Increase transparency, recognition of qualifications and skills acquired through formal and informal studies among the member countries ;
- Support the development of innovative vocational training programmes in ICTs.

Ladies and Gentlemen ;

Distinguished International Experts ;

A meeting like this is promising for the OIC of tomorrow. Without mixing genres, it is very interesting to see how the OIC member countries, particularly their human resources, adapt more or less today in the job market. The successes of some of them point to the fact that there is some optimism for the future. This optimism needs to be shared and consolidated. The quality of the experts invited to this meeting gives me the opportunity to anticipate the intensity and density of the discussions that will be held during the deliberations.

It seems to me not superfluous to remind you of the importance and challenges of this meeting to the OIC in general and to our respective countries in particular. Undoubtedly, pooling our expertise will enable us to make significant progress towards the socio-economic objectives that our organization has set.

I sincerely hope that the two days will constitute for us another springboard for further consolidation and better coordination of our ideas in order to develop relevant training programmes for human resource development to meet the challenges of the time.

While wishing you every success in your deliberations and a pleasant stay in Cameroon, I declare open the 4th session of the Monitoring and Restructuring Committee of the Vocational Training Programme of OIC Member Countries (MAC4).

- **Long Live Islamic solidarity and cooperation;**
- **Long Live Cameroon and its Illustrious Leader, His Excellency, Paul BIYA;**

Thank you for your kind attention. /-