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ORAL STATEMENT

ITEM 10: General Debate

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-second session
9 – 27 September 2019

Mr. President,

We remain concerned by the continued deterioration of the human rights situation in Cameroon, including the abuses committed by the Boko Haram armed group in the Far North region and the lack of effective response by the authorities to protect the population; violent repression by army forces in Cameroon's Anglophone regions and abuses committed by secessionists; and the crackdown on dissenting voices following the election in October 2018, mainly in Yaounde and Douala.

We urge the Government of Cameroon to fully cooperate with the High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve the human rights situation on the ground, including by taking urgent measures in line with her recommendations following her visit to the country in May.¹ We also call on the Government to fully cooperate with the Special Procedures, including by allowing full and unfettered access to all regions. Failing this, we urge this Council to take more robust action.

Mr. President,

Having just returned from Yemen where I met dozens of victims of the ongoing conflict, I can confirm that all parties to the conflict continue to commit violations of international humanitarian law and serious violations and abuses of human rights law. This underscores the continued need for accountability in the context of Yemen and drives Amnesty International's support for the work and mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts in Yemen. In a similar vein, while Amnesty International continues to have concerns about the independence of the National Commission, it nonetheless plays a crucial, parallel, and complementary role to the Group of Eminent Experts; both entities reinforce each other's work. Despite significant constraints, including having to operate in the midst of conflict and struggling with the lack of cooperation by all sides, the National Commission has continued to try to deliver on its work. We urge states to take up the National Commission's own recommendation, set forth in its seventh report, on continuing support for its work.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ Bachelet welcomes Cameroon's willingness to cooperate to tackle human rights crises,
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24565&LangID=E>.