



Press release

For immediate release

50 Cameroonian Civil Society Organizations and indigenous peoples' associations ask the Government of Cameroon to support the fight for a fair price to cocoa farmers.

In solidarity with cocoa farmers, and following the stand taken by Governments in West Africa (Côte-Ivoire and Ghana), Cameroonian civil society supports the new proposed \$2600/ton minimum floor price for cocoa. We speak today for farmers' livelihoods, their living income, their dignity, their communities, and we strongly believe that our cocoa farmers should receive a fair price for their work.

In mid-June, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, both representing around 60% of the world production, announced the suspension of the sale of cocoa for the coming season, requesting a new minimum floor price for cocoa at \$2600/ton. **This decision marks a historic moment for cocoa.** This moment is the make or break time to decide if we will lift millions of cocoa smallholder farmers out of poverty. It is the only chance we think to realistically build towards a living income for cocoa farmers in Africa. This \$2,600 price is not enough for living income for cocoa farmers, but it's a huge step in the right direction.

Major negotiations between the Governments of Ghana and Cote-d'Ivoire and industry fell through on July 3rd, with the industry expressing reluctance to support the new floor price. Despite this failure, it is important to note that Mars, Halba, Lindt, Cargill, Uncommon Cacao and many other chocolate companies are ready to pay the floor price, providing by their position a clear indication that such a price is not unrealistic. Some problematic companies are however still rejecting this and embracing a neocolonialist and oppressive model that abandons smallholders in dire poverty while they relish spectacular wealth. The companies who reject the floor price want the farmers to bear the burden of price fluctuations, not themselves. Even though average cocoa farmers make under \$1 per day and the industry is worth over \$100 billion per year.

Cocoa farmers in Cameroon are also part of this constant struggle to decently live from the fruits of their labor. Georges, a cocoa farmer from Esse (Centre Region) says:

« We have a very tough life. What we receive for our production hardly cover the cost of inputs, and there is no remuneration for our work. Farmers have no salary »

Until they do better, it is hard for them to fully engage in initiatives to protect forests and ecosystems. We believe in defending people AND planet, forests AND farmers. Together.

We think Cameroon's authorities should be supportive of the position of Ghana and Côte-d'Ivoire, and stand up for the minimum floor price at \$2,600 per ton of cocoa, or even higher – for all of Cameroon. The Government of Cameroon, the National Cocoa and Coffee Board and the Chamber of Agriculture, should join Ghana and Côte-Ivoire in the negotiations with the buyers of the international market, to ensure protection of our farmers' rights and contribute to the protection of the forest.

Cameroon should be as strong as Ghana and Côte-d'Ivoire, but also as Brazil, where cocoa is already paid from \$2500 to \$2850 today, and the farmers are making almost 100% of that price. We cannot be the last major cocoa-producing country to protect our farmers. The price paid to cocoa producers in Cameroon remains very low (between 1,2 and \$1,6, i.e a maximum of \$1,600/ton), and can't allow a decent life to those hardworking farmers. We need at least \$2600/ton for our farmers too, starting today. Samuel Nguiffo, Secretary General of the Center for Environment and Development says: