



YOUNG AFRICANS FOR  
CLIMATE ACTION (YACA)



NUMERID



YOUTHS AND CONTEMPORARY  
DEVELOPMENT (YCD)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*In response to the call from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to hold 'General Consultation on the management of urban waste resources', the Cameroonian Youth for Climate Action (JCAC) has mobilised other players in the sector in the central region. The initiative put forward practical solutions combining the use of ICTs, civic education, grassroots mobilisation and environmental innovation for sustainable waste management in municipalities.*

**Yaoundé (Cameroon), 05 May 2025** - Following the radio and press release signed by Ms Célestine Ketcha-Courtès, Minister of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU), inviting the population to share their ideas on waste management in the building-up to the 'General Consultation on Waste' in Cameroon, the Cameroonian Youth for Climate Action (JCAC) joined forces with other stakeholders such as Young Africans for Climate Action (YACA), Youths and Contemporary Development (YCD) and NUMERID to develop a common position and actively contribute to the planned conference.

At the end of several physical and virtual working sessions, preceded by a literature review, field observations and discussions with experts and community leaders, we came up with a 5-page document containing a situational analysis, as well as some thirty practical recommendations on the institutional and operational levels", explained Alain NGONO, President of the Cameroonian Youth for Climate Action (JCAC), the initiator of the coalition of young people from the central region on sustainable waste management.

### **On the governance of waste in urban areas**

This important aspect requires the introduction of a law on waste management, as decree no. 2012/2809/PM of 26 September 2012 is inadequate to regulate waste in our cities, and the rewriting of the 2007 National Waste Management Strategy, which is now out of date and not adapted to the current waste crisis in our cities. *"It is also necessary to introduce an ecological tax on waste management in cities, as well as the creation of a circular innovation fund accessible to young people with projects"*, said Christian FEGUE, President of the Young Africans for Climate Action (YACA) association and signatory of the Common Position of the young people of the Centre Region.

### **On the technical and operational framework**

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To be effective, waste management reform requires an efficient technical and operational framework resulting from an in-depth analysis of the specific needs and constraints of each target municipality, while guaranteeing access to the necessary data.

In this context, Albert NDUM, President of the Youths and Contemporary Development (YCD) association, emphasised the importance of identifying the local resources available and the investment or debt capacity of the municipalities. This approach is part of the drive towards greater decentralisation, which aims to reassert the authority of town councils over landfill sites and open up new development opportunities for them.

In order to optimise coordination at local level, it is essential that city councils be equipped with consultation tools, such as monitoring or steering committees, to encourage dialogue with development committees and traditional authorities. This approach will enable sustainable waste management to be better taken care of at local level, in terms of decision-making, raising public awareness and mobilising resources.

### **On waste recycling and circular economy**

Waste recycling in our towns and cities must be based on a 3R approach (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). This will make it possible to increase the number of players involved in the reuse-recycling and processing of different types of waste in order to optimise their management and significantly reduce the quantities of sorting rejects sent to landfill.

From this point of view, recovering used tyres by transforming them into ecological bins appears to be a relevant solution for optimising pre-collection and encouraging innovation and green entrepreneurship, particularly in areas that are difficult to access.

"We have developed a digital platform that aims to raise awareness, educate and sustainably manage waste and promote circular economy. This platform has been designed to bring together all the players in the waste value chain in one place, in order to strengthen their interaction, but also their technical capacities and efficiency", added Gervais AZANGA, promoter of the startup NUMERID and signatory of the Common Position.



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The government's adoption of the competency-based approach in the education system can be used to revitalise the Wildlife Clubs, with the support of teachers and school heads, in order to emphasise education on sustainable waste management and circular economy.

Similarly, getting agricultural extension officers involved in turning waste into compost for redistribution or sale at low cost to communities for use on their farms could also help create a local market for the circular economy and sustainable development.

### About us

The Youth Coalition for Sustainable Waste Management in the Central Region is a collaborative initiative that aims to propose concrete and innovative solutions for sustainable waste management. It currently has four members, namely: the Cameroonian Youth for Climate Action (JCAC), Young Africans for Climate Action (YACA), Youths and Contemporary Development (YCD) and NUMERID. For more information on this coalition, read our full Common Position. You can also contact us at +237652066178 or by email at [jcacassociation@gmail.com](mailto:jcacassociation@gmail.com).

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