UPF Cameroon Leaders Seek to Advance Peace in the Nation

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Yaoundé, Cameroon – An event to mark the UN International Day of Peace was held in the legislative chamber of the National Assembly of Cameroon on September 21, 2026. The opening ceremony was conducted by **Hon. Meboka Muyali Marie Boya**, vice president of the National Assembly, an Ambassador for Peace who represented the president at the ceremony.

Hon. Brigitte Emabot, president of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) Cameroon, delivered the welcome remarks. Next, **Mr. Stean Auguste Tshiband**, senior adviser on peace and development at the United Nations, introduced the official UN theme for the day, "Invest in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day," with an emphasis on key actions that advance peace. Then, representing civil society, **Fr. Peter Afoukeze Kebei-Ghongson** of the Ithaka Escolapios Foundation delivered remarks on the role that civil society can play in partnership with government bodies.

Two keynote speakers followed. A special message from the United Nations was delivered by **Dr. Issa Sanogo**, UN Resident Coordinator in Cameroon. **H.E. Théodore Datouo**, speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon, then offered his perspective on the role of government in supporting a peaceful society. This concluded the opening ceremony.

The afternoon session featured three panels: one with parliamentarians, one with civil society representatives and one with government representatives. The panels addressed peace not only in terms of conflict prevention, but also in relation to justice, human rights, the protection of women and children, social cohesion and access to essential services. Particular attention was given to violence against women and children, including femicide, infanticide, rape, sexual violence, exploitation and other forms of abuse.

Participants also examined challenges within the justice system, including delays in judicial proceedings, limited awareness among victims of available legal procedures, difficulties in following up cases, financial constraints and limited access to justice, particularly in rural and remote areas. The discussions highlighted the need for a more accessible, responsive and victim-centered justice system, supported by adequate human and financial resources.

The second session concluded with closing remarks by **Hon. Robert Nkili**, vice president of the Senate of Cameroon, representing the president of the Senate. The day concluded with a dinner gathering.