Groupement des Entreprises du Cameroun
GECAM

Ministère des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises, de l'Economie Sociale et de l'Artisanat.
MINPMEESA

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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GECAM – MINPMEESA

Transition from the informal economy to a more productive economy: GECAM and MINPMEESA agree on structural measures

The Cameroon Business Organisation (GECAM) and the Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Crafts (MINPMEESA) held a consultation meeting on Wednesday 4th November 2026 at GECAM's headquarters in Douala, dedicated to the transition of actors in the informal economy towards a more productive economy.

Chaired by H.E. Achille BASSILEKIN III, Minister for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Crafts, this meeting follows on from the commitment made in 2021 by the two organisations to strengthen public-private dialogue on the challenges of structuring and developing small and medium-sized enterprises. It brought together the relevant government departments, employers' organisations, associations of informal production units (UPIs) and partners involved in SME development.

Under the theme ***'Transition of informal economy actors towards a more productive economy: building an incentive framework for growth and sustainable employment'***, the proceedings led to the identification, following three thematic workshops, of twenty recommendations aimed at promoting a gradual, attractive and economically viable formalisation of actors of the informal sector.

These recommendations focus in particular on improving the fiscal and regulatory framework by simplifying obligations, streamlining levies and tackling red tape; structuring sectors and integrating SMEs and micro-enterprises into national value chains, with a view to supporting local processing, import substitution and market access; as well as strengthening financing mechanisms, post-formalisation support and social protection , in order to consolidate the sustainability of businesses and jobs.

Particular attention was paid to the introduction of incentive schemes tailored to the realities of informal production units, to facilitating their access to credit, public procurement and regional markets, and to their integration into structured value chains, notably through pilot initiatives in priority sectors.

Following the discussions, GECAM and MINPMEESA agreed to consolidate the selected recommendations into a joint government-employers' roadmap covering the period 2027–2030, accompanied by an action matrix specifying, for each measure, the responsible bodies, partners, deadlines and expected deliverables. A mechanism for consultation and regular monitoring will ensure its effective implementation.

GECAM and MINPMEESA commend the quality of the contributions and the commitment of all participants. They reaffirm their determination to continue their collaboration in order to foster an environment more conducive to entrepreneurship, productivity and the creation of sustainable jobs.

They emphasise that the transition from the informal economy to a more productive economy is a key challenge for structural transformation, inclusive growth and economic development in Cameroon.

Done in Douala, November 4, 2026

On behalf of
MINPMEESA

Achille BASSILEKIN III
Minister

On behalf of GECAM

Célestin TAWAMBA
President