

SOUTHERN CAMEROONS LEGAL CLARITY FRAMEWORK

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# WHITE PAPER EXPLAINED IN CAMEROON PIDGIN ENGLISH

What Has Not Been Done for 65 Years

Explanatory edition in Cameroon Pidgin English

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*Based on the White Paper by Roland Fru*

Original paper: April 2026 | Explanatory edition: October 2026

A learning companion to the original White Paper and primary documents.

Study the evidence and reach your own conclusions.

## UN General Assembly Resolution 1608 (XV)

4. *Decides* that, the plebiscites having been taken separately with differing results, the Trusteeship Agreement of 13 December 1946 concerning the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration shall be terminated, in accordance with Article 76 b of the Charter of the United Nations and in agreement with the Administering Authority, in the following manner:

(a) With respect to the Northern Cameroons, on 1 June 1961, upon its joining the Federation of Nigeria as a separate province of the Northern Region of Nigeria;

(b) With respect to the Southern Cameroons, on 1 October 1961, upon its joining the Republic of Cameroun;

5. *Invites* the Administering Authority, the Government of the Southern Cameroons and the Republic of Cameroun to initiate urgent discussions with a view to finalizing, before 1 October 1961, the arrangements by which the agreed and declared policies of the parties concerned will be implemented.

*994th plenary meeting,  
21 April 1961.*

Dis na highlighted extract of paragraphs 4 and 5. Di red lines na annotations; dem no be part of di original UN document. Paragraph 4(b) address termination on 1 October 1961 upon joining the Republic of Cameroun. Paragraph 5 invite urgent discussions to finalize di arrangements before that date. Check di full resolution alongside di White Paper.

**READ THE FULL PRIMARY DOCUMENT**

[assessment.scclarity.org/materials/un-resolution-1608-xv.pdf](https://assessment.scclarity.org/materials/un-resolution-1608-xv.pdf)

## How for use this explanation

This na learning explanation of Roland Fru ei White Paper, What Has Not Been Done for 65 Years, dated April 2026. E follow the eleven sections for the original paper. E no be new UN document, court judgment, or official legal translation. If any wording no clear, compare am with the original White Paper and the primary documents.

We keep names like Southern Cameroons, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1608 (XV), and La Republique du Cameroun as dem dey for the records. The paper ei argument and the things wey the records directly talk no be always the same thing. We go make that difference clear.

## Short introduction for audio

My people, this explanation na for help we understand the Southern Cameroons question. The aim no be for choose your political answer for you. Na for help you understand the documents, the questions, and the work wey the White Paper dey propose. Whether you support independence, federation, confederation, or another arrangement, you fit read the same records and explain wetin you understand with your own words.

The original paper talk say the legal papers wey suppose explain how Southern Cameroons move from United Nations trusteeship into ei relationship with La Republique du Cameroun never get one clear, complete public examination. That na the paper ei main argument. For know how strong that argument be, we need check the full record, including evidence wey fit support am and evidence wey fit challenge am.

## Part 1 Introduction

When people discuss Southern Cameroons, plenty people start with political arguments. This White Paper ask make we first examine one legal question: How the transition from United Nations trusteeship happen, and which legal documents give that transition force?

For answer that question, we need more than slogans. We need know the document ei name, the people or governments wey make am, who sign am, who get authority for approve am, and how the document enter force.

The paper talk say, for the sixty-five years from 1961 to 2026, that complete public work never get done with enough discipline. E call for better research and institutions wey people fit hold accountable.

## Part 2 The system wey dey produce confusion

A problem fit continue when the way groups and institutions operate dey reward the wrong things. If loud talk dey bring more attention than careful research, people fit put more effort for loud talk. If nobody dey check leaders ei claims, slogans fit take the place of evidence.

Strong institutions do something different. Dem check documents, ask questions, keep records, and explain their decisions. Dem no depend only on one popular person. Dem get rules wey continue even when leaders change.

The paper argue say different groups, armed actors, diaspora movements, diplomats, and the Cameroon state get different interests. Some fit benefit when the issue remain unclear. That na the paper ei analysis of the system; each claim still need evidence for people to test am.

### **Part 3 Things wey people get right**

Southern Cameroons pass through the United Nations trusteeship system under British administration. Britain manage the territory under an international arrangement. Administration no mean say a country get unlimited ownership of another people ei future.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV), adopted on 14 December 1960, set out principles concerning decolonization and self-determination. Self-determination concern a people ei right for determine their political status and pursue their development.

The February 1961 plebiscite also matter. Southern Cameroons voters choose to achieve independence by joining the Republic of Cameroun, instead of joining Nigeria. Resolution 1608 (XV) endorse that result. We no suppose remove that fact from the record. The White Paper ei question na whether the legal arrangements for implement the result were properly completed.

### **Part 4 Things wey need more careful explanation**

Resolution 1514 explain broad principles. Resolution 1608, adopted on 21 April 1961, address the plebiscite results and implementation arrangements for the Cameroons under British administration.

Paragraph 4(b) of Resolution 1608 decide that the Trusteeship Agreement should end for Southern Cameroons on 1 October 1961, upon ei joining the Republic of Cameroun.

Paragraph 5 invite three parties: the Administering Authority, wey na Britain; the Government of Southern Cameroons; and the Republic of Cameroun. E invite dem for start urgent discussions so dem fit finalize, before 1 October 1961, the arrangements for implement the policies wey the parties agree and declare.

Make we keep the wording correct. Paragraph 5 use the word invites. E no itself name one particular union treaty, and e no itself list a signing, ratification, and registration procedure. The White Paper ask researchers for examine which legal instruments and procedures were necessary, and whether the record show say dem happen.

For ask, Was the process lawfully completed? na an open research question. For say, The process was never lawfully completed, na a claim wey also need proof. Both statements no mean the same thing. We need use words carefully so we no decide the answer before we examine the evidence.

## Part 5 Common ideas wey fit mislead people

First, sympathy no automatically settle a legal question. A foreign government or human-rights group fit care about suffering without accepting one particular argument about legal status.

Second, a plebiscite and a constitution do different work. A plebiscite record the choice wey voters make. A constitution set out rules for government. Researchers need examine the plebiscite, the resolutions, the constitutions, and any other relevant instruments together.

Third, armed violence no produce legal documents. E fit bring death, displacement, damaged schools and businesses, and harder positions. The paper call for legal and institutional work through peaceful means.

Fourth, the passage of time alone no answer every legal question. But time, state practice, recognition, and later legal events fit matter for legal analysis. A proper study need examine those things too; e no suppose just ignore dem.

## Part 6 The work wey the paper say never get completed

The paper ask for one comprehensive legal memorandum. That mean one carefully researched legal explanation wey bring the relevant documents together and examine their legal effect.

The questions include: Which instrument or instruments establish the relationship? What authority give dem force? Who be the parties? Who sign? How approval happen? Where the records dey? Which international body receive or acknowledge dem?

The paper say a complete public answer never get presented. That statement na part of ei argument; research need check am against existing legal studies and archives.

If researchers no find a document, dem must record where dem search and wetin the archives tell dem. Not finding am for one search no automatically prove say e never exist. The result need careful assessment.

## Part 7 Why support fit become weak

Human suffering need attention. People wey lose their homes, safety, health, or education need help now. That work no suppose wait for one final answer about legal status.

For diplomats or lawyers to act on a legal claim, dem normally need a clear question, documents, and an explanation of the relevant law. Dem also need know who dey present the case, how that body dey organized, and what authority e get.

The paper argue say division and unclear institutional responsibility fit weaken the case. Cooperation no require everybody for want the same political future. E require agreement for examine evidence honestly and report am clearly.

## Part 8 The institutional work wey need happen

Legal documentation: qualified international lawyers should examine the instruments people cite. The paper specifically mention the Foumban Conference arrangements of 1961, the Federal Constitution of 1961, and later constitutional instruments. The study should assess their authority and legal effect, including evidence wey challenge the paper ei position.

Archival research: search the relevant British, United Nations, and Cameroon archives. Keep the replies and the records of every search. Explain wetin researchers find and wetin remain missing.

Institutional consolidation: organize the work with clear roles, rules, financial records, and public accountability. The research should survive changes of leadership.

Diplomatic engagement: present the documented legal question to appropriate institutions and interested states. The institution wey researchers approach must get the authority or role for address that kind of question.

## Part 9 The clearest public position

The White Paper ei position na this: Southern Cameroons went through an international trusteeship process governed by the United Nations Charter, the Trusteeship Agreement of 1946, and General Assembly resolutions, including Resolution 1608 of 1961. Researchers should identify and examine the instruments wey completed the transition.

The paper maintain say those instruments never get publicly identified and verified in one complete way. On that basis, e argue say the legal question remain open. That na the paper ei legal position; this Pidgin explanation no turn am into a judgment from a court or the United Nations.

We fit pray like everything depend on God, and work hard like everything depend on we. Careful work mean we check our own claims too.

## Part 10 The way forward

First, establish the legal record. Bring qualified lawyers and researchers together. Publish their work so other experts and the public fit examine am.

Second, address humanitarian needs now, alongside the legal research. Protect life and help people wey dey suffer.

Third, build institutions wey last. Publish their rules, responsibilities, mandates, and financial records. Let people know how for question or correct their decisions.

Fourth, engage the United Nations and other relevant institutions through proper procedures. A request for review no guarantee one particular answer. Researchers must explain the grounds for the request and the limits of the body ei authority.

Fifth, make the argument clear and consistent. The paper recommend patience, discipline, peaceful work, and proper documentation. E no promise say one document or one meeting go automatically produce the political result anybody want.

## Part 11 The main public question

Which legal instrument, or instruments, lawfully complete the transition of Southern Cameroons from United Nations trusteeship into ei constitutional relationship with La Republique du Cameroun?

What be the document ei name? Who be the parties? Who sign am? How approval happen? When and how e enter force? Where the records dey, including any registration wey the relevant law require?

If you know an instrument, name am and show where somebody fit read am. If you no know, you fit talk that honestly. The purpose na for investigate the record, not for reward one answer wey everybody repeat.

## Conclusion for audio

The White Paper call for better legal research, stronger institutions, and public accountability. E no ask this learning page for choose your political future for you.

After you read or listen, answer the historical-record questions with your own words. Then, if you want, share your personal views for the public-opinion survey. The survey no be election, referendum, census, plebiscite, or legally binding authorization. Filling am no give any person or organization power for speak, negotiate, govern, raise money, command forces, or make political commitments on your behalf.

## Legal words explained for Cameroon Pidgin

Trusteeship: an international arrangement under the United Nations system for administer a territory and promote the people ei advancement toward self-government or independence, according to the applicable agreement and Charter.

Administering Authority: the government wey get responsibility for run the territory under that arrangement. For this case, na the United Kingdom.

Plebiscite: a public vote on a particular question. The February 1961 vote and the survey on this website no be the same thing. This survey na voluntary opinion research.

Resolution: a formal decision or statement from an institution. Ei legal effect depend on the institution, the wording, and the relevant rules. No be every resolution get the same legal force.

Legal instrument: a document or formal act wey get legal effect. E fit be a treaty, constitution, statute, or another relevant act. Researchers need examine which kind fit the case.

**Treaty:** an international agreement governed by international law. Ei title alone no decide whether e be a treaty. An exchange of notes fit also constitute a treaty, depending on ei content and the parties ei intention.

**Signing:** when an authorized representative put ei signature on an instrument. The effect of signing depend on the rules and the instrument.

**Ratification:** a formal act by which a state confirm ei consent for be bound by a treaty, where ratification is the applicable procedure. Signing and ratification no always be the same step. No be every international agreement require ratification.

**Registration:** filing and publication of an international agreement under the relevant system. Under Article 102 of the United Nations Charter, a treaty or international agreement covered by the Article should be registered and published. If e no registered, a party cannot invoke am before a United Nations organ. Non-registration alone no automatically make the agreement invalid.

**Constitution:** the basic rules wey organize government, power, and rights. Whether a particular constitution complete this transition na a question for legal examination.

**Self-determination:** a people ei right for determine their political status and pursue their economic, social, and cultural development, within the relevant international legal framework.

**Jurisdiction:** the legal authority of a court or institution for deal with a particular matter. Before we ask a body for act, we need know whether e get that authority.

**Mandate:** the defined authority somebody receive for do particular work, with limits, duties, and a period of responsibility.

**Public authorization:** a proper process through which people give a defined mandate. This website survey no provide that mandate.

**Accountability:** the duty for explain decisions, show records, answer questions, and accept correction under clear rules.

**Archives:** places wey keep historical records. Researchers need record the archive, file reference, date, and source for each document.

**Evidence:** information and records wey support or challenge a claim. Evidence no be the same as what we wish happen.

## **Study questions for audio**

Question one: For your own words, wetin be the main legal issue wey the White Paper identify?

Question two: According to paragraph five of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1608 (XV), wetin dem expect make happen before the Trusteeship end on 1 October 1961?

Question three: Based on the materials wey you study, which legal instrument you believe establish the present relationship between Southern Cameroons and the Republic of Cameroon? If you identify one, name am. You fit also explain wetin you still need verify.

## Editorial and recording notes

This is an explanatory adaptation, not a word-for-word translation. Sections I to XI of the original are covered in Parts 1 to 11. The executive summary and back-cover argument are incorporated into the introduction and conclusion. Alternative-title and layout appendices are not narrated as substantive research.

The paragraph 5 explanation is drawn from the supplied Resolution 1608 (XV). The glossary adds general legal distinctions to prevent signing, ratification, registration, and treaty titles from being confused. These clarifications are explanatory notes, not quotations from the White Paper. The 1969 Vienna Convention is used here to explain general treaty terminology; Article 4 limits its retroactive application, so it is not presented as a treaty automatically governing the 1961 events. Primary references for the glossary: UN Charter Articles 76 and 102; Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties Articles 2, 11, 12, 13, and 14; UN Treaty Handbook. The adaptation attributes unresolved legal positions to the White Paper rather than presenting them as an adjudicated result.

Suggested recording order: short introduction; Parts 1 to 11; conclusion; terminology guide; three study questions. Read at a calm conversational pace. Do not narrate the editorial notes. Read 1608 as sixteen oh eight; XV as fifteen; 1961 as nineteen sixty-one; 1 October 1961 as first October nineteen sixty-one. Keep Southern Cameroons and the document titles clear. A fluent Cameroon Pidgin speaker should review pronunciation and local wording before audio publication.