



CANUDC CHARTER



**Cameroonian National Universities Debating
Championships**

PREAMBLE

Considering that debate is the mean of ideas exchanging and communication which can boost personal development of individuals in general and of youths in particular, as well as the development of a nation and which can also shape a good number of leaders of tomorrow;

Considering the fact that there are many conflicts observed around the world, it is urgent to stress on the dialog which necessary leads to the beginning of debate, reason why the slogan is « debate rather than battle »;

Noticing with anxiety that unemployment of youths is due to a leadership and entrepreneurship crises;

Taking into consideration the power of word and oratory art;

Leadership and Debate Clubs of all public and private higher institutions, stakeholders at the present Charter entitled « CANUDC Charter », agree upon the following:

Chapter 1: the organisation

Article 1: Cameroon Debate Association (CDA) (P.O. Box : 6134, web : www.cameroondebate.org), headquarter: Yaoundé, is in charge of coordination and supervision of the tournament in effective collaboration with the council of CANUDC and the higher institution hosting the event.

Article 2: for the organisation of CANUDC, the host institution will adopt a logo which will appear, as well as logos of CDA, hosting University and sponsors or patronage, on all invitations, applications for sponsorship and advertising panel.

Article 3: the tournament is managed by an Organising Committee, headed by a tournament convener and Director of Tournament. He/she is accompanied by representatives of the hosting University. Their duty is to set up an Organising Committee which will ensure the success of CANUDC.

Article 4: the Tournament Organising Committee is made up of:

- 1- A Tournament Convenor
- 2- A Director of Tournament
- 3- Deputy Directors of Tournament (mobilization of funds, organization, communication and public relations)
- 4- A financial Director
- 5- chief Adjudicator, manager of the adjudicators' team
- 6- Person in charge of mobilization and registrations
- 7- Person in charge of communication and public affairs
- 8- Person in charge of feeding and decoration
- 9- Person in charge of accommodation and transport
- 10- Person in charge of logistic and mobilization of resources
- 11- Person in charge of volunteerism and protocol
- 12- Person in charge of cultural activities and excursions
- 13- Person in charge of computing

Article 5: commissions can be enlarged, mixed, shorten or divided according to needs and in respect of the allocated budget. The duties of each stakeholder are clearly presented in CDA documents such as status, rules and regulations.

Article 6: there is no remuneration for members of Technical Organising Committee, but they are given essential materials for the accomplishment of their duties. Debating championships are therefore opportunities for CDA to value volunteerism.

Article 7: members of the Technical Organising Committee would receive certificates, according to their field of competence, signed by CDA, the Organising Committee and a relevant authority from the hosting higher institution.

Article 8: right at the end of the championship, CDA runs elections in order to select the institution which will have the privilege to host the next CANUDC. This institution set a date for the realisation of the coming Championship in accordance with this Charter.

CHAPTER II: THE EFFECTIVE HOSTING

Article 9: generally, CANUDC takes place either during the period between end of May to August, or during the one between end of October to **November**.

Article 10: the hosting institution is elected at the end of the ongoing tournament. If not the case, the executive Bureau and specialists would take a decision in favour of one institution.

Article 11: before apply for the hosting of CANUDC, each delegation has to make sure that its institution is for the organisation. Therefore, a completed file is needed.

Article 12: institutions willing to host CANUDC have to send an application to the executive Bureau of CDA 30 days before the current edition.

Article 13: the date and place of the upcoming CANUDC should be set at least 10 months before the proposed or supposed date

Article 14: the date and place of CANUDC can only be modified in case of:

- 1- A major unforeseen incident
- 2- A disaster
- 3- A real incapacity for the hosting university to welcome the event or to accept conditions of the CANUDC Charter
- 4- An unpreparedness and immaturity in the organisation of the event.

CHAPTER III: PARTICIPANTS

Article 15: the debating and public speaking championship is opened to any natural person, adult or adolescent, member of a Debate and leadership club and student, enrolled in any higher institution.

Article 16: till now, independents candidates are accepted.

Article 17: candidates can register in one of the following categories: debater, adjudicator and observer.

Article 18: in case foreign debate communities are invited, a new category of prize will be open for them.

Article 19: without exception, all participants should be present as from the first day on time as scheduled in the official invitations.

Article 20: any consequences related to the lateness of a delegation will not be undertaken by the Organising Committee.

CHAPTER IV: TEAMS, ADJUDICATORS AND OBSERVERS

Article 21: Teams. 50 teams of debaters (in three categories: French, English and Bilingual) would be selected based on the rule « he who registers first, will be first selected ».

Paragraph 1: due to the bilingualism state of Cameroon, the category

« bilingual » is just a secondary category while primary ones are French and English. The Organising Committee would decide on the number of bilingual who will join each major category.

Paragraph 2: there is no limit number of teams per institution. Therefore each institution can have as many teams as possible; it depends on their human and financial resources.

Paragraph 3: students of first and second cycle can register either as debaters or as adjudicators.

Paragraph 4: students of the doctorate cycle can only register as adjudicator or observer.

Paragraph 5: during the competition, students who are bilingual will have a psychological advantage. So, a francophone should make sure that he/she is at least able to get a bit of English and vice versa.

Article 22: Adjudicators. The adopted system is one adjudicator for two teams per institution. The third team, if any, should be accompanied by another adjudicator.

Paragraph 1: any student, researcher or lecturer recognised as such by his institution can register as adjudicator. Therefore, he must provide a document justifying his status (student or lecturer).

Paragraph 2: it is compulsory for adjudicators to be bilingual. This implies the capacity to listen, understand, take down notes and comment a debate match in French as well as in English. For this reason, adjudicators will undergo a test.

Paragraph 3: adjudicators are without consultation members of the adjudicators Team, supported by experienced structured debates observer coming from abroad or local debaters and adjudicators officially recognized by CDA as national debate and oratory art trainers.

Paragraph 4: they would work under the leadership of a Chief Adjudicator chosen by CDA at the appropriate time. Adjudicators are also competing and

debaters are their judges. They will fill a feed-back form at the end of each round.

Paragraph 5: adjudicators would make sure that the forms are available before launching a match. Furthermore, they have to make sure that the form is completely filled by each debater.

Paragraph 6: a volunteer or a member of the adjudication Team will be in charge of the collection and deposition of the forms.

Paragraph 7: results of each match are deposited in the office of the Chief Adjudicator and a document is signed to justify the evidence.

Paragraph 8: adjudicators do not have the right to communicate marks of debaters. They can only communicate the order. In accordance with the phases of the championship (preliminaries, quarter finals, semi-finals and finals), marks will be posted.

Paragraph 9: from preliminaries to semi-finals, assistant adjudicators would not mark debaters. Only marks of the main adjudicator are considered. But before giving final marks, he has to take remarks of assistants into consideration.

Paragraph 10: during the final round, each of the three finalist adjudicators marks teams. Their marks will be sum up.

Paragraph 11: the whole results will be published online on the CDA and the championship websites latest three days after the event.

Paragraph 12: adjudicators are also competing and marked in each round.

Paragraph 13: from time to time, the chief adjudicator will convoke meetings with adjudicators and/or debaters.

Paragraph 14: the seven best adjudicators, according to their importance, will adjudicate the finals of public speaking.

Paragraph 15: the three best adjudicators will referee the final of debate.

Paragraph 16: each debate match should be refereed by three adjudicators. But it can also happen that the option one adjudicator per match is applied.

Paragraph 17: a call for application will be launched for independent

adjudicators; this means those who are not enrolled in a higher institution.

Article 23: observers. Each delegation must be accompanied by an observer.

Paragraph 1: he is in charge of the implementation of the championship rules and the evaluation of the evolution of the event.

Paragraph 2: right at the end of the event, he will hand over a report from his observation to the executive Bureau of CDA.

CHAPTER V: DEBATE FORMAT AND THEMES

Article 24: the Cameroon National University Debating Championship (CANUDC) has at the moment two sections: Debate and public speaking.

Paragraph 1: the debate is adapted to the format used in WUDC (World University Debating Championship) and PAUDC (Panafrican University Debating Championship). This format is called the British Parliamentary Debate Format (BPDF) and is presented as follows: four team of two debaters each; we have the Opening Government (OG) 1&2, Opening Opposition (OO) 1&2, Closing Government (CG) 1&2 and the Closing Opposition (CO) 1&2. All these teams face each other simultaneously round a motion given by the Chief adjudicator fifteen (15) minutes before a debate match. During the match, each debater is allowed to deliver his speech in five or seven minutes according to the timing adopted by CDA.

Paragraph 2: public speaking is an oral, free and individual speech delivered in three (03) or five (5) minutes by a debater. It requires specific abilities and qualities. Unlike debate where motions are given to debaters, the adjudication team can let the orator decides on what to talk on. Note that this option is just for preliminaries.

Paragraph 3: all debaters can register for Public Speaking Championship.

Paragraph 4: because Public Speaking is an additional championship, participation is free and voluntary.

Paragraph 5: debate motions are controversial questions which punctuate the everyday life of Africans and Cameroonians in particular and questions related to national and international news in general. Motions are related neither to politics nor to religion.

CHAPTER VI: REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATIONS

Article 25: there are three steps for registrations: preregistration, registration and Catch-up.

Article 26: preregistration are opened online www.cameroondebate.org at least six months before the event. This is the only way to register unless you are resident in an area where internet network is not available. If the case, participants have to confirm their participation through phone calls and SMS before the deadline set by the Organising Committee.

Article 27: preregistered candidates will receive an acknowledgement of receipt to confirm their successful registration. If not the case, candidates must verify the authenticity of their e-mail address or check and correct any error which may have occurred during preregistration.

Article 28: preregistrations are strictly individual. On the registration form, there is a place to precise whether you have a teammate or not.

Article 29: all confirmed candidate will receive in their inbox the programme of the championship.

Article 30: after this step, all preregistered candidate have to deposit in an account, opened for the circumstance, the total amount of participation fees. The account information (bank, name, number) will be sent by mail

Article 31: if the payment of the total amount is not made (before the deadline), we consider it as a resignation. If there is any lateness in the payment of the second half, candidates will pay a penalty of CFAF 5.000 (Five thousand).

Article 32: once the deadline of the participation fees payment is reached, application are not more accepted. Incomplete payments are not reimbursed.

Article 33: the total amount of registration fee is CFAF 20.000 (twenty thousand CFA francs) per candidate (debater, adjudicator or observer).

Article 34: the complete list of participants will be available online latest thirty days before the event. (www.cameroondebate.org)

Article 35: no reimbursement of participation fee will be done if any of the candidates on the end list resign or is absent from the championship.

Article 36: when the required quota of registration will be observed (100 teams and 50 adjudicators), registrations will not be receivable anymore.

Article 37: in case the participation of any candidate is cancelled whether by the Organising committee or the candidate himself, this will in no case imply reimbursement.

Article 37: adjudicators and observers pay registration fees to attend the championship. Each higher institution can only send one (01) observer. Excess observers will not be under the responsibility of the Organising Committee.

Article 38: observers appointed as representatives by NGOs, sponsors and other ministerial staffs are exempt from registration fee; nevertheless, they must also register online.

Article 39: at the arrival, participants must provide the following documents:

- 1- A copy of the National Identity Card or passport
- 2- A photocopy of school fees receipt or student's Identity Cards of the current academic year. Lecturers or administrative staffs must provide documents certifying their status.
- 3- A photocopy of CANUDC registration fees
- 4- Two colour passport size photographs
- 5- An A4 envelop

Article 40: this file must be submitted to the Welcome, Mobilisation and Registration Commission, managed by the local organization committee representative and a CDA staff.

Article 41: candidate must also fill, sign and joint to the file a final registration form available at the aforementioned commission.

Article 42: after submission of the complete file, a receipt is given to the candidate to confirm his participation.

Article 43: incomplete file or file with non-valid documents will be simply rejected.

Article 44: illegible or incomprehensible documents will not be taken into consideration and consequently rejected.

Article 45: registration on scene is done in group or by delegation. Only independent candidates are allowed to register individually on the scene.

Article 46: any candidate registering fraudulently will be simply erased from the data base. His participation to any national competition will be therefore at risk of legal action against him.

Article 47: the effective registration for participation is done on the scene. Any candidate who failed to register on the scene on time will not be allowed to take part at the competition.

CHAPTER VII: PARTICULAR CASES

Article 48: If one or more registered debaters are absent the day of the competition, then a pulling will be organized amongst those present and willing to participate. They must present a valid identity. Those who will be selected will have to pay the participation fees immediately and fill the participants form.

CHAPTER VIII: UNFOLDING AND QUALIFICATION

Article 49: CANUDC is held in one week according to a calendar which will be communicated at the eve of the competition

Article 50: training sessions will take place before competitions

Article 51: there will be a clash in the British parliamentary debate format (obligatory) and in public speaking (optional) amongst the registered candidates under the French, English or bilingual category.

Article 52: because they are obliged to be bilingual, adjudicators can only register under French or English category.

Article 53: the championship will proceed in four phases: preliminaries, quarterfinals, semi-finals and final.

Paragraph 1: preliminaries. The 50 registered teams will clash in nine rounds according to their categories, at the rate of three rounds per day.

1. The teams with the greatest number of points will pass the preliminary round.
2. If several teams are able to qualify for the 32nd place with the same number of points, the committee shall refer to their jury's classification. Thus, it could take into account the number of judgments in favour of those teams. (For instance: this team came first this number of times whereas the other one took that position just these numbers of time...).

Paragraph 2: Quarterfinals. The sixteen (16) winning teams in each primary category during preliminaries will clash in quarterfinals. It does not matter the number of point obtained during preliminaries, they will be programmed as follows:

Quarterfinals A: 1st TeamA ≠ 2nd TeamH ≠ 2nd TeamD ≠ 1st TeamE

Quarterfinals B: 1st TeamB ≠ 2nd TeamG ≠ 2nd TeamC ≠ 1st TeamF

Quarterfinals C: 1st TeamC ≠ 2nd TeamF ≠ 2nd TeamB ≠ 1st TeamG

quarterfinals D : 1st TeamD ≠ 2nd Team E ≠ 2nd TeamA ≠ 1st TeamH.

Paragraph 4: Semi-finals: will clash at the semi-finals, the eight (8) teams that will occupy the first two positions in each group of the quarterfinals. They will be programmed as follows:

Semi-finals A: 1st TeamA ≠ 2nd TeamD ≠ 1st TeamC ≠ 2nd TeamB

N.B.: Letter A, B, C and D are used to indicate the various groups of the quarterfinals.

Paragraph 5: The Final. It shall oppose the two best teams of the four groups of the quarterfinals.

Article 56: the public speaking (PS) championship will take place in two phases: Preliminary and Finals. Amongst the registered candidates for the public speaking, ten (10) will be selected for the finals. Public speaking preliminaries could also take place in several days.

Article 57: the distribution in BPDF or PS might depend on the effective number of debaters.

CHAPTER IX: PREPARATION OF THE DEBATE MATCHES

Article 58: debaters can use all documents and material that could help them for the preparation of their match.

Article 59: debaters are allowed to use a stop watch or any apparatus that could play this rule. However, only the adjudicator remains the time master and announces each time the temporal stages of each intervention.

Article 60: debaters will have fifteen minutes before the beginning of each debate match, to prepare and agree on their order of passage or intervention

CHAPTER 10: MATERIAL

Article 61: CDA and the host institution will put at the debater's disposals didactic materials such as: pens, pencils, sheets of paper etc.

Article 63: in the other hand, each debater will have to provide himself with particular documents for his preparation

Article 64: the parliamentary debate requires at least a lectern and a maximum of five. CDA will put at the disposal of the debate and leadership club of the host institution, (one) of the lecterns for the final phase of the competition

Article 65: this lectern have to be jealously preserved and used only during great events or other local final phases of debating championship.

Article 66: each debate and leadership club is supposed to have an adequate material for its debates

Chapter 11: other accessories and activities

Article 67: each participant should bring along a sheet and the necessaries for his personal care.

Article 68: the Welcome committee will provide on arrival, the necessaries for primary needs and shower.

Article 69: participants will be lodged in the spaces provided by the host institution and placed separately according to their gender.

Article 70: the meals will be common

Article 71: Any culinary allergy will have to be announced

Article 72: participants suffering of a particular anomaly will have to alert on their situation.

Article 73: excursions are envisaged in touristic sites of the CANUDC host city. In terms of finance, candidates should prepare the necessaries for the visits.

Article 74: each delegation should prepare a show individually or in group under any creative art field. Theses spectacles will be presented during the evening known as “talent evening”.

Article 75: there will be official evenings for relaxation during the competition. Each participant is requested to bring along ceremonial regalia.

Article 76: each participating institution has to send a representative of its high hierarchy for the final phase of the competition, the solemn handing-over of the prizes, the opening ceremony and also for the closing ceremony.

Chapter 12: prizes and distinctions

Article 77: certificates of participation will be given to all participants, thus granting to them the status of adjudicator or debater. Observers will also receive certificates mentioning their position or status.

Article 78: close to forty prizes and distinctions will be awarded.

Article 79: the prizes will be given to bests in three different categories whether an adjudicator or a debater.

Paragraph 1: For adjudicators. (07), the following distinctions will be awarded:

1. Best adjudicator
2. Best English adjudicator
3. Best French adjudicator
4. Second best English adjudicator
5. Second best French adjudicator
6. Third best English adjudicator
7. Third best French adjudicator

Paragraph 2. For debaters (23), three cases are observed

Subparagraph 2.1.: In BPDF.

A-TEAMS (10)

1. Best team
2. Best English team
3. Best French team
4. Best bilingual team (comprises 02 bilingual debaters)
5. Second best English team
6. Second best French team
7. Second best bilingual team
8. Third best English team
9. Third best French team
10. Third best bilingual team

B- Debaters (10)

1. Best speaker
2. Best English speaker
3. Best French speaker
4. Best bilingual speaker
5. Second best English speaker
6. Second best French speaker
7. Second best bilingual speaker
8. Third best English speaker
9. Third best French speaker
10. Third best bilingual speaker

Article 81: this heading will not take into account bilingualism

Article 82: special prizes will be awarded such as: the CDA special prize (best female speaker and junior speaker)

Article 83: prizes offered during this tournament will be symbolic. Institutions are called upon to encourage their triumphant debaters or judges by rewarding them with special prizes or in different forms once they return.

Article 84: The Cameroon Debate Association will grant to the two best adjudicators and the eight best teams the opportunity to take part in a national training seminar in structured debate and public speaking where they will be taken in charge. At the end, they will receive certification testifying their status as national trainers in structured debate.

Article 85: these national trainers could hence belong to the jurisdictional team of the Panafrican Universities Debating Championship (PAUDC).

Article 86: after acquiring some experiences, the CDA will recommend them to the neighbouring countries that will require Cameroon trainers' assistance.

Article 87: best adjudicators and debaters will represent their institutions and the country at Panafrican (PAUDC) and World (WUDC) championships.

Chapter XIV: discipline and adjudication

Article 88: any registration and participation are worth acceptance of the entire points of this Charter

Article 89: in cases of the non respect of this Charter, of instructions, lack of Fair - Play, physical or verbal violence or material destruction, the organization reserves the right to sanction the debater or any implicated team at the level of points and rounds. The sanction could even lead to the person's or team's disqualification.

Article 90: an independent commission might be necessary in cases of aggravated situation. This commission aims at deciding on exclusion be it temporary or complete.

Article 91: any behaviour contrary to the championship's spirit will obviously lead to sanctions.

Article 92: a debater cannot be replaced during the championship

Article 93: the tournament is opened to everyone, debaters or spectators. It is thus strongly recommended to debaters to put aside their personal affairs. The organization declines any responsibility in cases where thefts occur in a milieu different from the lodging rooms.

Article 94: during the tournament, the organising Committee can ask any spectator, presenting behaviour that can obstruct a debate or the tournament as a whole, to leave the enclosure of the tournament.

Article 95: any debater or team not present at the right time is likely to lose by default the points of that round.

ARTICLE 96: the fact that a debater or team is won by default during preliminaries does not forcefully mean that all his matches are cancelled.

Article 97: in cases where a match is interrupted involuntarily due to any event, this match will be reprogrammed. A voluntary interruption will be comparable to a voluntary withdrawal and might lead to sanctions such as the exclusion from the tournament and individual sanctions.

Article 98: when problems arise, the president of the organizing committee will be the main decision maker.

Article 99: during the competition, any unwritten complain or observation from a debater should first of all be addressed to the observer representing his institution. This observer will materialize his complain, before presenting it to the tournament convener and to the president of CDA.

Article 100: only independent teams or candidates can directly address their complaints to the organizing committee.

Article 101: any abnormal behaviour or unfair spirit that appears to be violent and the non respect the present charter, will lead to exclusion from debate tournaments organized by the CDA for a given length of time.

Article 102: cellular phones and computers are not allowed during debate matches.

CHAPTER XV: LEGAL DEPOSITION

The present charter shall be completed and deposited at the ministry of Higher education, to all private and public institutions, to independent candidates and to partners.

CHAPTER XVI: PERSONAL DATA

Article 103: in accordance with the January 1996 Constitution revised in 2008 which guarantees the right to information, any person filling the participation form has the right to access, to rectification or suppression of personal data collected by the Organization.

Article 104: to exercise this right, an applicant will have to address a verbal or written request to the tournament convener who will transmit the request to the person in charge of the data-processing cell for answers.

Article 105: Cameroon Debate Association reserves reproduction rights and of broadcasting winners names and images.

CHAPTER XVII: LIMITES OF RESPONSIBILITY

Article 106: CDA and the organizing committee cannot be retained in the following cases:

Paragraph 1: if data related to participation could not be given due to causes beyond their control

Paragraph 2: if, due to a cause beyond control or independent of their will, this tournament should be modified, shorten or be cancelled.

Article 107: this charter could be modified and eventually published during the competition without any retroactive effect. The organizing committee could to prosecute any person that frauds or tries to do it.

Article 108: in cases where a participant or debater failure is observed, the Organization has refuse his participation without justifications.

Article 109: the present charter must be read in the presence of participants and before the beginning of each CANUDC edition.

Article 110: this charter is applied to all participants without discrimination.

Article 111: any question related to the application or interpretation of this charter, or any unforeseen question that suddenly arises, shall be answered by the CDA or the Organizing committee according to the nature of the question.

For CANUDC

The president of the Organising Committee

The CDA president