

# INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON INTERNAL MIGRATION, THEIR DYNAMICS AND CHALLENGES IN A CHANGING WORLD

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## Title of the Presentation:

Rural Depopulation and its Implications for the Sustainability of African Cities:  
A case of Cameroon

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### Abstract

Rural depopulation refers to the population flows from rural to urban areas. This phenomenon mainly targets administrative and economic metropolis as well as great cities. Whatever the case, rural depopulation, nowadays, enhanced by the development of transport facilities, aims at finding better living conditions based on the supposed attractiveness and comfort expected in the targeted cities (Sauvy, 1971).

Nowadays, Africa is the continent with the fastest <sup>2</sup> growing, associated with an unprecedented population growth. Cameroon witnesses the same trend. In fact, its urbanisation rate increased from 28.1% in 1976 to 37.9% in 1987, and then, to 48.8% in 2005. Urbanisation rates are particularly high in the Littoral and Centre regions: 92.6% and 71.9% respectively (RGPH 1976; RGPH 1987; RGPH 2005; Projections BUCREP de 2011).

Unfortunately, the unceasing increase of urban areas populations, and its corollary geographical enhance don't meet with the needed urban planning. Contrary to developed countries, where urbanisation and development positively interacted, urbanisation is rather a source of problems in most African countries. Therefore, they have to face the challenges of urban and peri-urban spaces planning in decent housing, sanitation network, sewage treatment facilities, urban transport facilities, power supply facilities, roads, waste management, public lighting, and public noise, among others. (SDGs 6, 7, 11 and 13).

Yet, concern for city sustainability and viability has always existed in Africa. The continent has never ignored this quest for the ideal of building sustainable cities. Nowadays, African countries are present in the global movement for discussions about '*Global City*' and other current issues such as: governance, urban planning and modernisation of cities. African countries need to establish city design strategies aimed at achieving viable, governable and inclusive cities, and developing forms of urban management based on responsibility and shared management. In Cameroon some projects have been set up for: Yenenga Project, Clean Cities Project, Sustainable City Project between Yaoundé and Mbankomo.

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