



UKCCC

UK Cameroon
Chamber of Commerce



British
Chambers of
Commerce

Newsletter

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BUILDING A SMARTER NETWORK OF OPPORTUNITIES TOGETHER



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Editorial Team: Dr Elias Pungong, Frederic Mvondo
Content Editor: Henry Kiven



Word from the Chairman.

A Season of Strategic Milestones and Global Momentum

As we reflect on the past six months, it is clear that the UK Cameroon Chamber of Commerce (UKCCC) has entered a defining chapter in its journey. This period has been marked by significant progress in strengthening our institutional foundations, deepening international engagement, and positioning our Chamber as a credible and influential voice within the global business community.

Our affiliation with the British Chamber of Commerce (BCC) network stands out as a milestone achievement—one that opens the door to unprecedented global connectivity, trade support, and policy influence. From our debut at the BCC Global Chamber Connect 2025 to our participation in the BCC Global Annual Conference in London, UKCCC has demonstrated its readiness to represent the interests of its members on the world stage. These engagements have not only elevated our visibility but also underscored our commitment to facilitating practical, high-impact partnerships across borders.

At home, we have continued to drive forward key priorities—supporting investment, advocating for business-friendly reforms, and enabling sector-specific growth. The UK-Cameroon Trade and Investment Mission in Yaoundé, the joint tax advocacy with the European Chamber of Commerce and American Chamber of Commerce and our strategic partnership with KPMG



all reflect the Chamber's growing capacity to convene, influence, and deliver. In the spirit of innovation, we also launched a transformative cloud education initiative with Tech Equity UK to build digital leadership across the UK-Cameroon corridor.

Finally, we honor a pillar of our institution—Mr. Idrissa Kamara, our pioneering Vice Chairman—whose leadership and vision helped shape the Chamber's early trajectory. As we look ahead, we remain energized by the momentum we've built and confident in the path forward. The UKCCC is not just participating in conversations about trade and investment—we are helping to shape them.

Together, let us continue to build a future of shared prosperity.

Dr Elias Pungong





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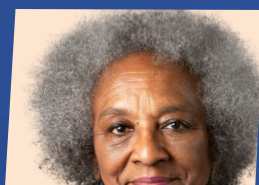


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UKCCC Board and General Assembly – Report of the Board Meeting

The UK-Cameroon Chamber of Commerce (UKCCC) held its fourth Board Meeting for the second half of 2024 on February 28, 2025, at Dashaco Africa Holdings Head Offices in Douala. The meeting served as a strategic checkpoint, reviewing progress on prior action items and aligning on 2025 priorities.

Key highlights included the approval of the 2024 operational and membership report, a solid financial audit presented by Ernst & Young, and confirmation of a revised governance framework with the adoption of updated Articles of Association, Bylaws, and policies. The

formal signing of a Memorandum of Association with the American and European Chambers of Commerce was celebrated as a milestone in UKCCC's international positioning.

Committee reports outlined a robust agenda for 2025. The Environmental and Sustainability Committee will introduce a Green Business Certification Program, while the Trade and Investment Committee plans a series of trade missions focused on infrastructure, energy, and technology. Meanwhile, the Governance and Ethics Committee is launching a Board Governance Enhancement Project, and the Treasury

and Finance Committee is working on new revenue strategies and systems upgrades. The meeting also approved UKCCC's sponsorship of the Orwellian Project dinner and acknowledged the Chamber's impactful participation in the 2024 World Climate Action Forum in London.

Additional developments included the admission of four new members—UCCC Yaoundé, Premier Health Centers, SCIGSG, and Tech Equity—further strengthening UKCCC's network. The launch of "UKCCC Conversations That Matter," a new monthly webinar series, was announced to foster ongoing dialogue within the business community. The meeting concluded with strong Board support for the UK Government-backed review of the Cameroon Business Forum and a renewed commitment to advancing UKCCC's strategic objectives for 2025.

Photographic coverage.





London, June 2025: British Chamber of Commerce holds Global Annual Conference



Sir Keir Starmer, the British Prime Minister

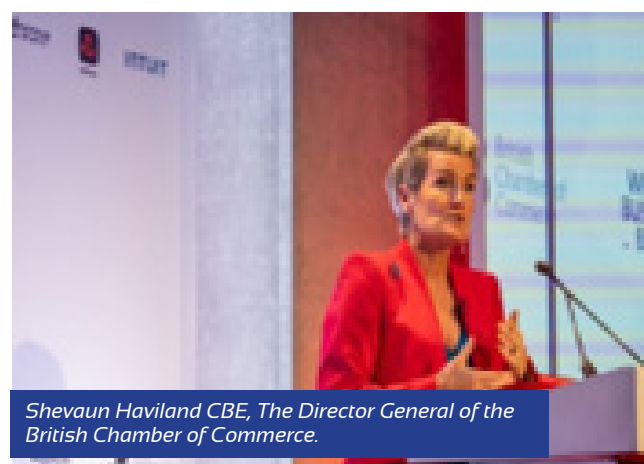
One year on from the landmark general elections in the UK, the BCC's flagship conference returned at a pivotal moment for the UK economy. Against a backdrop of rising business uncertainty and sluggish growth, this year's event confronted the urgent question on everyone's mind: Where's the growth? With businesses calling for clarity and ambition from policymakers, the conference aimed to ignite forward-thinking dialogue on how the UK can turn economic challenges into opportunities.

Through practical insight, policy-focused debate, and a commitment to actionable out-

comes, the zeal to create the right conditions for investment, innovation, and long-term growth were at everyone's lips. Key note speakers included the UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer who gave an insight into the Government's new Trade Strategy in his opening speech, the Governor of the bank of England, Andrew Bailey; Shevaun Haviland, Director General of the BCC and Rt Hon Kemi Badenock, MP, Leader of the Opposition



Andrew Bailey, The Governor of the bank of England.



Shevaun Haviland CBE, The Director General of the British Chamber of Commerce.





Rt Hon Kemi Badenock, MP, The Leader of the Opposition

Ahead of the BCC Conference, the BCC 'Global Chamber Connect', hosted its seminar, reaffirming its mission to make the UK the best place to start, grow, and invest in a business.

The seminar focused on fostering mutually beneficial relationships between UK-based and international chambers, with the aim of expanding opportunities for trade, innovation, and sustainable growth. In her opening remarks, Sarah Howard MBE, Chair of the British Chambers of Commerce, set the tone for a conference centered on collaboration, leadership, and resilience.

Keynote Highlights

The event featured two keynote addresses that set the tone for a day of insight and action. The Rt Hon. Lord Mayor of London, **Alastair King DL (Alderman)**, spoke on The Chamber Leadership's National and International Influence in Fostering Growth and Resilience in a Volatile Global Economy. Highlighting a shift in business mindset, he challenged participants to ask, "What can we do?", and stressed that without lead investors, many valuable assets remain underutilized. He underscored the vital role of global chamber networks in turning potential

into progress. **Andrea Reynolds**, CEO of Swoop, followed with a keynote on Empowering Members in Times of Pressure – Fast, Frictionless Support for Financial Resilience. She offered practical, technology-driven strategies to help businesses respond to economic pressures with agility, resilience, and confidence.



Alastair King DL (Alderman), the Lord Mayor of the City of London.

A series of thought-provoking panel discussions followed on – Global Trade opportunities, AI & Digitalization and Business in the Community. There were workshops spotlighting sustainability and energy and included Green Innovation & Sustainability and Energy Transition in the North Sea.

The conference concluded with remarks from **Anne-Marie Martin**, Director of Membership (UK & International) at the BCC. She stressed the importance of continued collaboration across global chambers, emphasizing that strong networks are vital to global business resilience and opportunity.



Mr. Henry Kiven, UKCCC Executive Director
with the Rt Hon. Alastair King DL (Alderman), The Lord Mayor of London

A Historic First: UK Cameroon Chamber of Commerce Debuts at the BCC Global Chamber Connect 2025 in London

The UK Cameroon Chamber of Commerce (UKCCC) proudly marked a historic milestone in June 2025 by participating in the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Global Chamber Connect for the first time. Held in London, the event brought together representatives from BCC's extensive global network to foster bilateral trade, investment opportunities, and collaborative growth.

Representing the UKCCC was the Executive Director, who joined a diverse assembly of international chamber leaders, government officials, and industry executives in exploring the future of global commerce.



The UKCCC Executive Director with Sarah Howard MBE,
Board Chair of the British Chamber of Commerce, London
June 2025.

Looking Ahead

The UKCCC's participation in this landmark event reinforces its commitment to international dialogue, partnership, and innovation. As global chambers continue to align for mutual prosperity, the UKCCC looks forward to deepening its role in future initiatives, strengthening its members' positions in a changing global economy.



UKCCC Becomes Affiliate of the British Chamber of Commerce – Unlocking Global Trade Benefits



UKCCC
UK Cameroon
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London–Douala, June 2025 – The UK–Cameroon Chamber of Commerce (UKCCC) is delighted to announce its official admission into the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) network—a transformative milestone that underscores a new era of opportunity, collaboration, and global reach for the Chamber and its membership.

The Senior Membership Executive at the BCC Head Office in London conveyed the news with enthusiasm:

"I am delighted to let you know that your application has now been approved."

Speaking on this momentous news, the Chairman of the UKCCC remarked:

"This is a most significant achievement and milestone for our Chamber. We have every reason to celebrate this one."

This achievement not only marks a historic moment for the UKCCC but also affirms its strategic trajectory in promoting bilateral trade and economic development between Cameroon and the United Kingdom.



A Message of Gratitude and Aspiration

In response to the approval, the Chair of the UKCCC shared a heartfelt message with the membership:

"On behalf of the entire executive team and membership of the UK–Cameroon Chamber of Commerce, please accept our heartfelt thanks for this exciting announcement. We are deeply grateful for your guidance throughout this important process.

We are thrilled by this milestone in our Chamber's history. Becoming part of a global association like the British Chambers of Commerce opens doors to enhanced advocacy, expanded international connections, and significant growth opportunities for our members.

We believe this membership will provide valuable networking, policy influence, market insight, and brand visibility for us. We eagerly anticipate collaborating with your team and leveraging this network to further our mission, support our members, and contribute to regional economic development."

What the Membership Brings

As the apex body representing 53 accredited regional chambers in the UK—and over 70 international markets—the BCC connects nearly 80,000 businesses globally, engaging around 350,000 firms annually. Through this network, the UKCCC gains access to a comprehensive framework of benefits:

• Global Connectivity & Trade Support

The BCC's Global Business Network spans over 60 countries, enabling international trade facilitation, market entry guidance, and cross-border connections

• Policy Advocacy & Influence

Accredited chambers inform national policy and advocacy efforts, contributing insights through initiatives like the Quarterly Economic Survey and direct engagement with the UK government.

• Member Services & Visibility

From legal assistance and HR consultancy to training, branding opportunities, and event exposure, BCC-accredited chambers deliver tailored support to businesses of all sizes.

Benefits for UKCCC Members

By aligning with the BCC, UKCCC members stand to gain:



Benefit

Description

Advocacy & Voice

Advocacy & Voice Contribute to policy dialogues at local, national, and international levels.

Networking & Collaboration

Engage in events, partner matchmaking, trade missions, and cross-border programs.

Market Intelligence

Access expert insights, research, and market data via the global chamber network.

Reputation & Trust

Leverage BCC accreditation for brand promotion, member directories, and awards exposure.

Looking Ahead: A Gateway to Shared Prosperity

As the UKCCC embarks on this enhanced global partnership, it remains steadfast in its mission to empower members, advocate for favourable trade policies, and cement UK–Cameroon economic links. With the backing and expertise of the BCC network, the Chamber looks forward to unlocking shared prosperity and driving impactful regional development.

This is more than formal affiliation—it's an invitation to grow, compete, and connect on the global stage. And as our Chairman aptly said, it is truly **a moment worth celebrating.**



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The training is designed to provide participants with a solid understanding of anti-bribery and corruption principles, relevant laws and regulations, and practical strategies for identifying and mitigating risks in the workplace

2

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING (AML) TRAINING

Comprehensive sessions covering AML laws (both national and international), red flags, reporting obligations, and the responsibilities of financial institutions under applicable regulations.

3

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP CONVERSATIONS

In many organizations, young professionals are promoted into leadership roles based on performance, yet often without the structured training or preparation necessary to succeed. The assumption that leadership skills naturally emerge once a title is given can leave young managers/leaders struggling with uncertainty, poor team dynamics, and unclear communication expectations. This program was developed to address this critical gap.

4

BOARDS THAT PERFORM - IMPROVING AND ENERGIZING GOVERNANCE IN CORPORATE BOARDS

This training outlines the importance of having well-trained board members who are versed with today's compliance environment and understand what is expected from them.

5

COMPLIANCE PROGRAM REVIEW:

Independent assessments of your existing compliance structures and frameworks to ensure alignment with best practices and regulatory

6

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITY ADVISORY:

Support in strengthening compliance operations in your company through strategic advice, risk assessments, and capacity-building initiatives.

7 Risk Management Training - ISO 31000

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Dr. Elias Pungong Discusses UKCCC's Admission into the British Chambers of Commerce Network

In a historic milestone for the UK–Cameroon business community, the UK Cameroon Chamber of Commerce (UKCCC) has been officially admitted into the prestigious British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) network. This recognition marks a new chapter for the UKCCC as it joins a global alliance of over 75 international Chambers dedicated to fostering trade, investment, and economic cooperation. In this exclusive interview, the Chairman of the UKCCC reflects on the significance of this achievement, outlines the Chamber's vision for the future, and shares insights into how members can actively leverage this affiliation for growth and global visibility.



Mr. Chairman, what was your first reaction upon receiving the news of the UKCCC's official acceptance into the British Chambers of Commerce, and what are your early priorities for collaboration?

Chairman:

It was a moment of deep pride and reflection. This is a landmark achievement for the UKCCC, and the culmination of tireless work by our entire leadership and membership. To be officially recognized by the British Chambers of Commerce—one of the world's most prestigious business networks—means we are now operating on a global stage.

Our early focus will be on purposeful engagement—identifying high-impact opportunities within the BCC network where our members can immediately gain value. We aim to build bilateral relationships with fellow Chambers, initiate strategic trade missions, and ensure our voice is present in global trade dialogues.

In an earlier comment, you described this as 'a most significant achievement.' Could you elaborate on what makes this milestone particularly important for the UKCCC?

Chairman:

It's important for several reasons. Firstly, it gives us legitimacy and credibility—not just in the UK and Cameroon, but globally. We now sit alongside more than 75 Chambers representing key markets across the world. That's a level of recognition that opens doors.

Secondly, it transforms our potential. Our members now gain access to one of the most established international business networks—this is not symbolic; it is strategic. It enhances everything we stand for: promoting trade, attracting investment, and building trust across borders.

How will this new affiliation help advance the broader mission of the UKCCC?

Chairman:

Our mission has always been clear: to promote and facilitate trade and investment between the UK and Cameroon. This affiliation gives us a direct vehicle to do exactly that, but with far greater scale and efficiency.

It positions us as an active conduit for British companies interested in Cameroon, and for Cameroonian businesses looking to expand or find partners in the UK. Through the BCC's global reach, we now have the institutional backing to connect ecosystems in a way that's structured, credible, and mutually beneficial.

What specific benefits do you expect for UKCCC members, and how will this contribute to their visibility and growth?

Chairman:

Networking is the lifeblood of business—and the BCC is unmatched in its global reach. Our members will gain access to a world of opportunity: introductions, forums, sector briefings,

trade events, and most importantly, trusted relationships with like-minded professionals across multiple industries and continents.

We're not just opening doors—we're placing our members in rooms that matter. The visibility this offers, particularly for SMEs, is invaluable. Growth comes when opportunities meet preparation—and this is the platform to make that happen.

How might small and medium-sized businesses in particular benefit from this new status?

Chairman:

The opportunities are not reserved for large corporations—far from it. In fact, SMEs stand to benefit the most. The BCC network does not discriminate by size—it values ambition, innovation, and readiness to engage.

For SMEs, this is a chance to raise their profiles, connect with partners abroad, and gain knowledge that can shape their strategic direction. We'll be actively supporting them in navigating the ecosystem, and ensuring they're well-represented in key initiatives and events.

Are there particular BCC programs or events you're eager for the UKCCC to engage with or lead on?

Chairman:

Absolutely. The BCC runs a robust calendar of events—from global trade summits to sector-specific working groups—and we intend to participate strategically. We're particularly interested in areas where Cameroon has comparative advantage: agriculture, energy, infrastructure, digital innovation.

We'll be carefully curating opportunities and communicating them clearly to our members. Quality over quantity is key—engagement must be targeted and results-driven.

How does BCC membership enhance the UKCCC's advocacy efforts on trade and economic development?

Chairman:

Advocacy is about influence—and influence comes from affiliation. As a member of the BCC, our voice is now amplified within a respected global network. When we speak, we're not speaking alone; we're speaking as part of a collective that policymakers, investors, and institutions around the world take seriously.

This will strengthen our ability to shape policy dialogues and contribute to trade reform agendas—whether that's in London, Yaoundé, or at international forums.

Do you see any immediate priorities where the UKCCC can assert leadership in UK–Cameroon trade conversations?

Chairman:

Yes, and the timing couldn't be better. With Cameroon increasingly looking to diversify its economic partnerships and the UK seeking deeper ties across Africa post-Brexit, we sit at a strategic intersection.

We'll be focusing on elevating Cameroon's investment profile in the UK, bringing attention to sectors like renewable energy, agri-business, logistics, and services. At the same time, we'll advocate for UK businesses to view Cameroon not just as a market—but as a regional gateway.



Looking ahead 2–3 years, what does success look like for the UKCCC as a result of this affiliation?

Chairman:

Success means delivering impact. Tangibly, I'd like to see measurable growth in bilateral trade volumes, an increase in cross-border partnerships, and UKCCC members actively participating in international markets.

We should also be seen as thought leaders and policy influencers—an institution that bridges business, government, and diplomacy in meaningful ways. Ultimately, we want the UKCCC to be viewed as a serious player in the global Chamber community.

What role should Chamber members play in co-creating value from this new partnership?

Chairman:

This is a shared platform—we're only as strong as our members' engagement. We've done the hard part: building the bridge. Now we need members to cross it, explore, connect, and contribute.

Whether it's through joint ventures, attending events, initiating projects, or simply sharing best practices, every member has a role to play. I see our members not just as beneficiaries, but as co-creators of the value this membership brings.

Finally, as Chairman, what is your message to UKCCC members as we enter this new chapter?

Chairman:

Time waits for no one—and no one waits for time. We've entered a chapter of extraordinary opportunity, but it's only meaningful if we engage with intent.

So, my message is simple: be present, be proactive, and take advantage. Networks like this reward the visible, the ambitious, and the bold. Let's step forward—together—and make this count.







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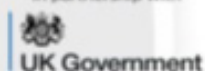


UK-Cameroon Trade & Investment Mission

Yaoundé, 23-24 April



In partnership with



UK Cameroon Trade and Investment mission in Yaounde Cameroon.

IPA Chairperson Welcomes UK Investors: A Strategic Gateway to African and Global Markets

Yaoundé, Cameroon – In a compelling welcome address to a high-level UK investment delegation, Dr. Diane Acha-Morfaw, Chairperson of Cameroon's Investment Promotion Agency (IPA), extended a warm and strategic invitation to consider Cameroon as a preferred destination for investment. Addressing key stakeholders—including the

British High Commissioner to Cameroon, the CEO of DMA Invest UK, and visiting investors—Dr. Acha-Morfaw emphasized that Cameroon is “not just a slogan but a fact” when described as the gateway to Africa.

Located in Central Africa, Cameroon offers direct access to high-potential markets including Nigeria (over 200 million people), the Democratic Republic of Congo (100+ million), the Economic Community of Central African States (62 million), and extended regional markets through Chad, Sudan, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). With established deep seaports in Douala and

Kribi, and a liberal tariff regime, Cameroon also positions itself as a competitive export base to the northern hemisphere amidst rising protectionism in developed economies.

Welcome to Cameroon—your gateway to growth and opportunity.

Highlighting Cameroon as a **land of opportunity**, the IPA Chairperson, outlined priority sectors such as agriculture (especially rice and corn under the country's import substitution policy), fisheries, animal feed, dairy, energy, ICT, tourism,



infrastructure, and manufacturing. These are supported by strong fiscal and administrative incentives as provided in the 2013 Law on Private Investment, including job creation bonuses and early-stage tax relief. "Our challenges are your opportunities," the Chair emphasized, inviting UK investors to convert Cameroon's development goals into mutual business gains.



The Chair also acknowledged the productive partnership between IPA and DMA Invest, noting its role in facilitating impactful collaborations between UK and Cameroonian businesses. Two standout examples were shared:

- **A CFA 180 billion investment** in the Nsimalen highway project—leveraging UK Export Finance and public-private cooperation.

- **A CFA 45 billion agriculture and land development programme** led by a UK firm and financed by Standard Chartered and UK Export Finance.

"DMA Invest's work, supported by the IPA, is already bearing fruits," said the Chair, calling the partnership a cost-effective model for mobilizing business-to-business and government-to-business engagement between both nations.

The Chair also reaffirmed Cameroon's resilience, pointing to economic growth sustained even during the COVID-19 pandemic. With **GDP growth above 4%** and inflation kept in check, Cameroon provides a stable macroeconomic environment for long-term investment. The call for **genuine technology transfer** was clear: *"Stoppages in production for lack of spare parts could be avoided if technology transfer was real. It benefits us all."*

Investors were assured of Cameroon's strong legal and institutional environment, underpinned by a **dual legal system (civil and common law), OHADA compliance**, and anti-corruption

frameworks, including the National Agency for Financial Investigation and the National Anti-Corruption Commission. The Chair urged ethical business practices, warning against bribery and emphasizing that fairness and transparency must be reciprocal.

In conclusion, the IPA Chair welcomed all UK investors to **explore, establish, and expand** in Cameroon—not just as visitors, but as long-term partners in a market rich with potential. "Whether through joint ventures or 100% ownership, you will find skilled labour, a secure legal environment, and a country open for business. All we ask is a win-win relationship."

Minister Paul Tasong Showcases Economic Opportunities at UK-Cameroon Trade and Investment Mission

Yaoundé, 23 April 2025 – The third edition of the **UK-Cameroon Trade and Investment Mission** opened in Yaoundé with a key address by **Mr. Paul Tasong**, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development. The event marked another step forward in strengthening economic ties between the United Kingdom and Cameroon.

Welcoming a high-level delegation led by **British High Commissioner Matt Woods** and representatives of UK and Cameroonian business communities, Mr. Tasong praised the growing partnership between the two nations. He highlighted the significance of the **Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)** signed in 2022, the establishment of a **Commonwealth Economic Hub in Douala**, and the creation of a **£1.5 billion funding window by UK Export Finance (UKEF)** as key milestones that underline a shared commitment to deepening economic cooperation.



Cameroon: A Strategic Investment Gateway

Minister Tasong positioned Cameroon as a **gateway to the 700-million-strong markets of ECCAS and ECOWAS**, underscoring its geographic advantage in the Gulf of Guinea and its role as a regional hub in West and Central Africa. He emphasized that despite global challenges—including economic and security shocks—Cameroon continues to demonstrate resilience, with economic growth reaching **3.8% in 2024**, and projected to average **4.6% between 2025 and 2027**.

Cameroon's strengths, he noted, lie in its **diverse resource base**, including cocoa, coffee, rubber, palm oil, and soon, iron ore, alongside an expanding services sector fueled by **telecommunications and transport**. A fast-growing, youthful population also offers a strong labour pipeline, making Cameroon an increasingly attractive destination for investment.



Dignitaries at the opening of the Yaounde Economic Trade Mission.

A Clear Development Vision

The Minister outlined Cameroon's **National Development Strategy**; a decade-long plan built on four key pillars aimed at structural transformation. The strategy's key focus areas include:

- **Agriculture:** Promoting local production of key commodities like rice, fish, and wheat.

- **Energy:** Increasing national power capacity from 2,000 MW to 5,000 MW by 2035.
- **Transport:** Expanding seaports in Kribi, Douala, and Limbe, improving rail infrastructure for mineral exports, and modernizing airports and road networks.
- **Telecommunications:** Scaling digital infrastructure through national and submarine optical fiber expansion, with growing investment opportunities in digital security and connectivity.

The total cost of implementing NDS30 is estimated at **88,000 billion CFA francs** (approx. **£115 billion**), with the private sector playing a leading role under a supportive, enabling state framework.

Reforms and Incentives for Investors

Minister Tasong reassured participants of Cameroon's **stable macroeconomic outlook**, noting:

- Inflation is expected to drop to **3% by 2026**, down from 7% in 2022.
- The national **budget deficit remains below 1%**, and
- The country benefits from its **fixed exchange rate pegged to the Euro**, which shields its debt profile from external shocks.

To attract further investment, Cameroon has introduced:

- Tax incentives for investors
- A renovated public-private partnership (PPP) framework
- The creation of a **Special Economic Zone Authority** to streamline and support investment flows.

He also highlighted Cameroon's membership in the **African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)** as a vital instrument for expanding regional trade and integration.

A Call to Action

Minister Tasong concluded his address with a resounding call to action, encouraging UK businesses to explore opportunities across Cameroon's priority sectors and to take advantage of the clear vision and incentives in place. **"Long live UK-Cameroon economic cooperation,"** he declared, affirming the government's commitment to fostering an inclusive, resilient, and growth-driven economy.



Spotlight on Investment: Private Sector View Panel at the UK-Cameroon Business Forum

Yaoundé, 23 April 2025 – Hilton Hotel
As part of the UK-Cameroon Business Forum, a high-level panel discussion titled “The Private Sector View” took place at the Hilton Hotel in Yaoundé on Tuesday, 23 April. The session brought together leading voices from national and international chambers of commerce, private enterprise, and the legal and investment sectors, offering a candid and forward-looking perspective on the current business climate in Cameroon.

Chaired by **Dr Elias Pungong**, Chairman of the UK-Cameroon Chamber of Commerce (UKCCC), the session was conducted in a Davos-style, conversational format that encouraged open dialogue and critical reflection. All invitees were present, contributing to a lively and substantive exchange that drew strong interest from the audience.

The panel featured distinguished representatives from:

Chair: Dr Elias Pungong, Chairman, UK-Cameroon Chamber of Commerce

- Laure Djoukam, Chair, American Chamber of Commerce

- HRH Senator Ekoko Mukete, Vice President, Cameroon Chamber of Commerce
- Maître Sarada NYA, Managing Partner, Nya & Co
- Franck Gérard Kom, General Manager of Enterprise Business, MTN

Dr Pungong opened the session with a short address, framing the discussion around the core question: How can Cameroon’s private sector drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth in a rapidly changing global landscape?

Key Themes and Insights

The conversation was shaped by a series of thought-provoking questions that explored the realities of investing in Cameroon, the sectors drawing growing interest, and the evolving role of chambers in facilitating international trade and investment.

Panelists shared diverse perspectives on:

- **The current investment climate:** While noting ongoing challenges such as regulatory complexity and infrastructure gaps, speakers emphasized that perception often lags behind reality—many sectors are showing strong growth potential.



- **Emerging opportunities:** Sectors such as agribusiness, energy, digital infrastructure, and green technology were highlighted as ripe for UK and international investment.

- **Chambers as facilitators:** Representatives from the various chambers shared success stories of business matchmaking, policy advocacy, and investor support, underscoring their growing influence in shaping a more welcoming business environment.

Sylvie Fekeram of ERG International discussed navigating markets in West and Central Africa, pointing to Cameroon's strategic location and resource base as key assets. Maître Sarada Nya provided legal insight into navigating the regulatory landscape, encouraging investors to engage early with local expertise and stay informed of upcoming reforms that could ease the path to market entry.



Looking Ahead

As the session drew to a close, panelists reflected on the future of the private sector in Cameroon over the next 12–18 months. There was a shared sense of cautious optimism, with many

agreeing that improved public-private dialogue, smarter regulation, and stronger global partnerships—particularly with the UK—will be key to unlocking long-term growth.



The Okwelians Summit 2025: Catalyzing Sustainable Change in Cameroon

Yaoundé, March 21, 2025 — The first edition of **The Okwelians Summit** took place in Yaoundé from March 19 to 21, drawing over **300 participants** from more than 20 countries. Organized by the Cameroonian 'Think Do'. **The Okwelians**, the summit brought together stakeholders from the public and private sectors, civil society, and development partners to advance the **sustainable transformation of Cameroon's economy**.

Key discussions focused on rethinking collaboration models and integrating **sustainability** into every stage of economic development. Topics included promoting **indigenous knowledge**, supporting vulnerable populations, and preserving ecosystems. A **Green Paper** will soon be published to formalize the strategic priorities identified.

Highlights included the participation of 20+ start-ups, significant youth and women representation, and strong media coverage. Notably, the summit led to the signing of **three MoUs**—with Eurocham & GPF, SYNDUSTRICAM & Huawei, and The Okwelians & the National Council of Traditional Chiefs.

The UK Cameroon Chamber of Commerce, through its members were co-sponsors to the event.

The Okwelians is a Cameroonian Think Do Tank dedicated to promoting social innovation. Grounded in action research, training, and the incubation of impact-driven projects, this multi-disciplinary organization mobilizes stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to advance the sustainable transformation of Cameroon.



The UKCCC Chair, Dr Elias Pungong, speaker at the Okwelians Summit

Jacques Jonathan Nyemb, the Okwelian President emphasized that sustainability is now a necessity, not a choice, and praised the summit's collaborative spirit. The next edition is scheduled for March 17–19, 2027.



Participants at the Okwelian Summit



Dignitaries at the opening of the Okwelian Summit in Yaounde

Commonwealth Business summit 2025 – Windhoek Namibia.

The **Commonwealth Business Summit 2025**, hosted by the Government of Namibia, took place in Windhoek from 18–20 June 2025. This inaugural event was held on the sidelines of the 2025 Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting (CTMM) and focused on enhancing intra-Commonwealth trade, digital transformation, green trade, public-private sector collaboration, sup-

port for SMEs, and regional integration. The summit successfully bridged the gap between policy and business, fostering collaboration and driving sustainable economic growth across the Commonwealth. The Chairman of the UKCCC was in attendance



Heads of the various delegations at Windhoek - Namibia



Cameroon's Minister Delegate for Cooperation with the Commonwealth H.E. Dr. Felix MBAYU at the summit.



KPMG Cameroon Joins UKCCC: Executives Visit to Explore Strategic Partnership Opportunities

The UK Cameroon Chamber of Commerce (UKCCC) is pleased to welcome **KPMG** Cameroon as its newest member, marking the beginning of a promising partnership with one of the world's leading professional services firms. They now join EY Cameroon, another member of the Big 4 accounting firms. To formally initiate this new relationship, a delegation of senior KPMG executives visited the UKCCC Office on June 2, 2025.

Introducing KPMG to the UKCCC Community

The KPMG delegation was led by **Mr. Theophile Tchafack**, Partner at KPMG, accompanied by **Mr. Peter Ngwa**, Senior Manager – Tax and Legal, and **Mr. Nguy Blaise Feindjom**, Senior Manager. During the visit, Mr. Tchafack introduced KPMG's global profile, highlighting its presence in over 146 countries and its core service offerings in Audit, Advisory, Tax, and Legal.

Focusing on their operations in Cameroon, Mr. Tchafack emphasized KPMG's commitment to supporting clients through strategic business planning, compliance, and operational excellence. He noted that becoming a member of UKCCC aligns perfectly with KPMG's goal of deepening its local engagement and expanding its impact across key economic sectors.



UKCCC Leadership Welcomes New Member

UKCCC Executive Director, **Mr. Henry Kiven**, warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed enthusiasm over KPMG's membership. He provided a comprehensive overview of the Chamber's mission to strengthen trade and investment ties between the UK and Cameroon and explained the role UKCCC plays in connecting businesses across borders.

Mr. Kiven also mentioned that UKCCC is in the process of affiliating with the British Chamber of Commerce—a move that will provide members like KPMG with enhanced access to international networks, trade missions, and investment platforms.



Collaborative Opportunities Ahead

As part of the discussions, several concrete avenues for engagement were identified. Mr. Kiven proposed that KPMG could take advantage of the following opportunities:

- Speaking engagements at UKCCC's Annual General Meetings (AGMs)
- Contributions to the Chamber's quarterly newsletters
- Participation in member forums and industry-specific networking events
- Collaboration on international trade missions and business summits

These platforms, he stressed, will give KPMG valuable visibility while connecting them with key players in the local and international business landscape.



A Promising Start

The meeting concluded with a shared vision for long-term collaboration. Both organizations expressed enthusiasm about the potential synergies and committed to exploring next steps in activating this partnership. The session ended with a commemorative group photograph, symbolizing the beginning of a dynamic and mutually beneficial relationship.



UKCCC, Eurocham & Am-Cham Strengthen Joint Advocacy on Tax Reform

As part of an ongoing collaboration between the UK-Cameroon Chamber of Commerce (UKCCC), the European Chamber of Commerce (Eurocham), and the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham), the three business associations held a high-level meeting to advance the shared goals outlined in their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with a particular focus on policy advocacy.

One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the agreement to launch an **annual joint submission of tax-related business concerns** affecting companies operating in Cameroon. This consolidated submission will serve as the foundation for discussions with government authorities, particularly during scheduled dialogue meetings with the Director General of Taxes (DGI) in Douala.

This coordinated effort is aimed at amplifying the private sector's voice and driving meaningful reforms within Cameroon's tax framework.

In preparation for this engagement, the UKCCC invited its members to share specific challenges they have encountered in relation to the country's tax laws. Particular attention was given to practices or regulations that are perceived as unjust, unclear, or counterproductive to business operations.

Members were encouraged to send their input to the UKCCC Secretariat, ensuring that the submission reflects a broad and representative range of concerns from across the UKCCC membership.

"Together, we represent a strong and unified voice," said a UKCCC spokesperson. "This is a real opportunity for businesses to influence change and contribute to a more transparent and enabling tax environment in Cameroon."

The UKCCC remains committed to strengthening its advocacy efforts through strategic partnerships and by actively engaging its members in shaping policy reform.



From left to right – Henry Kiven, UKCCC Executive Director, Sandra Gouadjio Executive Director European chamber of Commerce and Ezechiel Passam, executive Director American Chamber of Commerce.



Transforming Digital Leadership: UKCCC and Tech Equity UK Launch Game-Changing Cloud Education Series

In just two months, the UK Cameroon Chamber of Commerce (UKCCC), in partnership with Tech Equity UK, successfully launched and completed a transformative cloud education initiative, redefining how business and technical leaders across the UK-Cameroon corridor approach digital transformation.

This forward-looking programme was designed as a dual-track series, tailored to meet the distinct needs of both C-suite executives and IT professionals. Its goal: to build cloud fluency and empower organizations to make informed, strategic technology decisions in an increasingly digital economy.

Between May and June 2025, the partnership delivered four high-impact webinars under two core themes—**Cloud Migration Mastery** and **Serverless Computing**. These sessions, led by renowned industry expert **Dr. Shiyghan Navti**,

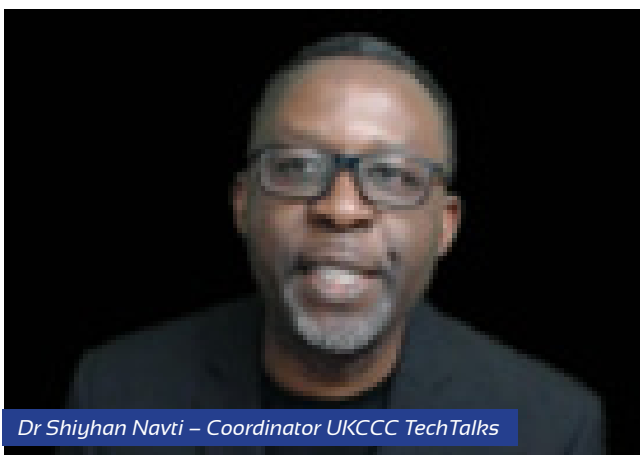
blended strategic leadership perspectives with deep technical insights. The result was a unique learning experience that bridged the gap between business vision and technology execution.

The impact was both immediate and measurable. The first session alone drew **82 registrants**, driven by strong last-minute sign-ups and high engagement across a diverse audience of IT professionals, mid-level managers, and senior executives. Across all sessions, participant feedback highlighted the clarity, relevance, and actionable value of the content.

This initiative marks a significant step in the UKCCC's mission to drive digital capacity-building within the UK-Cameroon business community and positions Tech Equity UK as a key enabler of cloud education in emerging and transnational markets.

With the successful completion of this initial phase, the partnership is now poised to move into its next strategic stage.

Building on the momentum and insights gained during the first series, the UKCCC–Tech Equity UK collaboration has developed a new set



of practical and advanced learning modules, designed for immediate rollout. These modules aim to deepen participants’ cloud competencies and provide targeted support for organizations looking to accelerate their digital transformation journeys.

CLOUD COMPUTING FUNDAMENTALS

Strategic Insights for Technical Professionals

IT Directors • CTOs • Engineering Managers • Technical Professionals

9:00 AM Cloud Migration Mastery	10:15 AM Serverless Computing Mastery
1:30 PM DevSecOps & Automation Mastery	2:45 PM Cloud Cost Optimization with FinOps
4:00 PM Cloud Security & Compliance	4:00 PM Cloud Security & Compliance Mastery

WHAT YOU'LL GAIN

- ✓ Best practices in cloud adoption
- ✓ Cost control strategies
- ✓ Advanced security techniques
- ✓ Automation implementation

PROGRAM FEATURES

- In-Depth Sessions
- Expert Insights
- Q&A Opportunities
- Networking

EARLY BIRD	REGULAR	GROUP DISCOUNTS
\$299	\$399	10% off 3+ 15% off 10+

These training sessions are designed to equip participants with the strategic foresight and technical capabilities essential for driving innovation, optimizing costs, and ensuring secure, scalable cloud adoption.

More than just a training series, this initiative represents a bold step toward building a cross-border digital ecosystem—one that con-

nects UK-based businesses with West African talent, while providing African professionals with access to world-class cloud education and global professional networks.

With features like live Q&A, on-demand content, and a growing, engaged learning community, the programme goes beyond traditional learning models. It fosters real-time collaboration, strengthens cross-cultural capacity, and accelerates digital transformation at scale.

The future of cloud is inclusive, collaborative, and global. UKCCC invites all its members—and the broader business and tech community—to join this evolving journey and help shape the digital economies of tomorrow.

For registration, please contact Email: contact@uk-ccc.org and/Or +237676738538 (WhatsApp)



Celebrating the Leadership of the UKCCC's Pioneer Vice Chairman – Idrissa Kamara.

The UK Cameroon Chamber of Commerce (UKCCC) bids farewell to its inaugural Vice Chair and Director, Idrissa Kamara, the CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Cameroon, whose tenure marked a transformative era for the new institution. Having previously served as the President of the Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce, his extensive experience was instrumental in establishing and expanding the UKCCC. His leadership not only attracted a growing membership but also ensured robust financial health for the Chamber.

Echoing the collective sentiment of the Board, the Chairman, Dr. Elias Pungong, expressed deep appreciation for his selflessness and professionalism:

".....Without falling into the temptation of repeating what Fred has so eloquently outlined, I would like to add that your selflessness and professionalism is without a match. We have learnt a lot from you on leadership and selflessness, a true Pan-African in every sense of the word. We are lesser without you but determined to continue and move ahead. We wish you well and continued progress. I will stay in touch and you'd be informed about all our major achievements and moves. Farewell brother and see you soon."

In a heartfelt message, the UKCCC Treasurer and CEO of Globeleq Cameroon, **Frederic Mvondo**, also lauded his exceptional skills, professionalism, and leadership, stating:



".....Your upcoming deployment within Standard Chartered is a testament to your exceptional skills, professionalism, and leadership. The Chamber has benefited immensely from your presence, which we have always considered a generous act of personal and professional responsibility. Your experience with the Sierra Leone Chamber significantly accelerated the ignition and ramp-up of our own Chamber. It goes without saying—you will be greatly missed."

As Idrissa embarks on his new role as the Chief Financial officer for Standard Chartered Bank in Bangladesh, the Chamber remains committed to upholding the values and strong foundation he assisted in establishing. His legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire and guide the Chamber towards sustained growth and success.

The UKCCC Info had a chat with Idrissa.

Reflecting on your tenure as Vice Chair and Director of the UKCCC, what achievements are you most proud of, and what challenges did you overcome?

Extremely happy that we now have a fully operational chamber through the collective effort of the top leadership, executive body, and membership. The initial conversations were a bit difficult. At the end I believe, all this was necessary to ensure we define a path and then work towards achieving our desired outcome.

How did your experience as Chairman of the Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce influence your approach in assisting the establishing and growing the UKCCC?

I worked with several High Commissioners at the BHC in Sierra Leone (HE Ian Hughes, HE Peter West, HE Guy Warrington and HE Simon Mustard) Commercial Advisers, and the private sector in getting the Chamber off the ground. Served as the 1st Executive Secretary and later President/Chairman. All these interactions and lessons learnt were very instrumental in driving the various conversations and engagements with several High Commissioners in Cameroon to include HE Rowan Laxton, HE Christian Dennys-McClure, HE Barry Lowen, HE Matt Woods (current) and the general membership. It was like having a GPS to help navigate the Cameroon experience.

Can you share a memorable moment or milestone during your time with the UKCCC that stands out to you?

The signing ceremony of the MoU with the US Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) and the European Chamber of Commerce (EuroCham). Having also served as Vice President of Amcham, I strongly believe that this collaborative vehicle, if vigorously pursued will not only amplify voices but will serve to project the private sectors influence in shaping the policy changes in the economic and business landscape in Cameroon. Again, well done and immense gratitude to all those, that worked behind the scenes and made this happen.

As you transition to your new role with Standard Chartered in Bangladesh, what advice would you offer to the current leadership and members of the UKCCC?

Focus on the opportunities that the Cameroon market presents, usually a default, in narrating the challenges. Be bold in activating the conversations with the Government and all other stakeholders in improving the business climate and economic landscape in the country. The Chamber(s) must be a collaboratively force for good. I experienced desire and readiness by the Government for engagement during my time in the country. We must over-leverage that.





UKCCC
UK Cameroon
Chamber of Commerce



What are your hopes for the future of the UKCCC, and how can the community continue to support its growth and success?

As noted above, the Chamber must be a “collaborative force for Good” not only for the benefit of its membership but for the broader good of the business landscape in the country.

On a personal note, what motivates you in life?

When it must be done and people say its difficult, I shift into extra gear. “Someone must do it, and I never hesitate to run into fire, for the broader good of humanity. Also, if there is one thing that have learnt in life and has helped shaped me leadership life, is that “It’s not just enough to break barriers. You need to hold the door open for others to follow”. I will endeavour to hold the door, for more Africans into Asia. I wish all of you the very best in this journey.

Thank you and we wish you every success in your new role.



SUSTAINING



CORPORATE



MEDIUM



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Towards Shared Prosperity

Strong Corporate Citizenship

***IHS** Cameroon invests in its host communities' economic growth and social development.*

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Enabling a connected world

We aim to make a positive impact in the communities where we operate, by helping improve the quality and availability of the communications infrastructure that enables an increasingly connected world.

Our success is rooted in our unyielding commitment to our values

- Customer focus
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Boldness

Sustainability

40



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Our impact goes beyond simply the benefits of connectivity, through our commitment to the four pillars of our sustainability strategy:

- Education and economic growth
- Ethics and governance
- Our people and communities
- Environment and climate change

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