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# **ELECTORAL VULNERABILITY INDEX 2025-2026**

*COUNTRY ANALYSIS*

## **CAMEROON**

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: OCTOBER 2025**



### **BACKGROUND**

Cameroon operates under a presidential system marked by a strong executive branch. The President serves as both head of state and head of government, with significant responsibilities including appointments, defense, and national policy direction.

While the country has maintained a multiparty political framework since the 1990s, electoral processes and political competition have faced criticism from some observers regarding transparency and inclusiveness. The legislative and judicial branches function within a centralized structure, and political dialogue continues to evolve in a context where civil society and the media face various challenges.

Cameroon can be described as a country with a centralized political system where the executive holds significant authority. Although it maintains a multiparty framework and regular elections, these processes have drawn criticism from some observers regarding transparency and inclusiveness. Political space for opposition and civil society remains limited, and institutional checks on executive power are relatively weak.

Nonetheless, the 2025 elections—taking place in a context of leadership uncertainty and increased coordination among opposition parties—may present an opportunity for a shift in political dynamics.

The 2018 Cameroonian presidential election took place on October 7, 2018. Incumbent President Paul Biya was re-elected for an eighth term in a vote marked by insecurity linked to separatist movements in the North-West and South-West regions amid the Anglophone crisis, as well as by allegations of electoral fraud raised by the opposition. Following the announcement of the results, so-called “white marches” were organized, encouraged by the Cameroon Renaissance Movement (MRC) led by its president, [Maurice Kamto](#).

### **UPCOMING ELECTIONS**

The 2025 electoral cycle may represent a key moment in Cameroon’s political landscape. President Paul Biya, now 91, has held office for several decades and has made fewer public appearances in recent months due to health concerns.

This context has led to internal discussions within the ruling RDPC party regarding future leadership. In line with constitutional provisions, should the presidency become vacant, the President of the Senate, Marcel Niat Njifenji, would assume interim responsibilities and organize elections within 20 to 120 days, without being eligible to run or alter constitutional or governmental arrangements. A long-serving member of the RDPC, Mr. Njifenji is seen as a figure of continuity.



## UPCOMING ELECTIONS CONT.

At the same time, the 2025 elections may see a more coordinated opposition effort. Approximately 30 opposition parties have expressed support for the Alliance for Political Change (APC), led by Maurice Kamto, who advocates for expanded access to basic services and reduced social disparities. In the 2018 presidential election, Mr. Kamto was officially credited with 14% of the vote. In the absence of recent reforms Cameroon's single-round electoral system, greater opposition unity could play an important role in shaping the electoral dynamics. Finally, the United Nations technical assistance is the outcome of a process initiated in May 2024 at the request of the president of Elecam, Enow Abrams Egbe. He had sought the UN's support in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, requesting assistance in organizing the 2025 and 2026 elections.

## POTENTIAL DRIVERS OF CONFLICT

According to the Electoral Vulnerability Index (EVI), these are the factors that contribute most to the increased potential for violence:

- Number of previous consecutive elections with Violence
- Violence during the last election
- Voting irregularities during last election
- Low Score of V-DEM 'Civil Society' Index
- Low Score on V-DEM 'Rule of Law' Index
- Low Score on V-DEM 'Clean Elections' Index
- Exclusion from political participation of political groups
- Lack of Capacity of Electoral Management Body
- Low Score on V-DEM 'Political Corruption' Index

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Civil society organisations and media should organize community forums and educational initiatives** that bring together diverse groups to discuss and reflect on the nation's complex history, ensuring that multiple perspectives, especially those marginalized in official narratives, are acknowledged and respected.
- **National institutions should collaborate with media outlets** to encourage accurate and respectful representations of historical figures and events, thereby preventing the spread of misinformation that could exacerbate social tensions.
- **International partners should ensure that their engagement during the electoral process remains impartial and inclusive**, maintaining balanced communication with all political stakeholders. Any action perceived as favouring one side could undermine their credibility and be interpreted as interference in national sovereignty — a principle held in high regard by the country.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- <https://www.amnesty.be/infos/actualites/article/cameroun-repression-monte-cran-arrestation-maurice-kamto>
- <https://timbuktu-institute.org/index.php/toutes-l-actualites/item/1146-cameroun-la-presidentielle-de-2025-point-focal-de-toutes-les-attentions>
- <https://www.prc.cm/en/cameroon/constitution>