

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix – Travail - Patrie

MINISTRE DES POSTES
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CABINET DU MINISTRE



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace – Work – Fatherland

MINISTRY OF POSTS AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

MINISTER'S CABINET

**Under the Distinguished Patronage of the President
of the Republic**

ICT INNOVATION WEEK

From 27 to 31 July 2026, Yaoundé

NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT

From 22 June to 31 July 2026, Yaoundé

**THEME : “ *Protecting Cyberspace from the Misuse of
Artificial Intelligence and Promoting Digital Patriotism*”.**

TERMS OF REFERENCES

I- BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

For several decades, Cameroon has been firmly committed to building an inclusive information society and developing a digital economy capable of supporting growth, innovation and national competitiveness. This vision, championed at the highest level of government by His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic, positions digital technology as a strategic driver of economic and social transformation, as well as a means of empowering young people.

In his various addresses to the nation and to young people, the Head of State has consistently encouraged young Cameroonians to seize the opportunities offered by Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). At the 3rd Ordinary Congress of the CPDM on 15 September 2011, he urged them to capitalise on technological change, stating that: **“Information and communication technologies are opening new avenues for youths to express themselves and unlock their potential (...) So I urge them to: INNOVATE, CREATE and, above all, DARE! ”.**

Advances in the digital sphere—notably increasing access to the internet, the widespread use of smartphones, the development of digital platforms and the rise of social media—have profoundly transformed the ways in which we communicate, learn, work and engage in entrepreneurship. Today, they offer young people new opportunities for wealth creation, employment and innovation.

However, these technological advances are accompanied by major challenges. Social media, which have now become key spaces for information and interaction, are sometimes misused. We are witnessing an increasing spread of disinformation, hate speech, the manipulation of public opinion, cyberbullying, breaches of privacy, identity theft, online scams and various forms of cybercrime.

In response to these abuses, the President of the Republic has regularly

called for the responsible use of digital technologies. In his Message to the youth of 10 February 2022, he urged young people to **“make responsible, instructive and constructive use of social media”**, whilst deploring the abuses observed in these spaces where **“vice, hate speech, and verbal violence abound and are increasingly rife”**. Earlier, in his Message to Young People of 10 February 2018, he called upon them to be **“patriotic Internet users working for Cameroon’s development and influence”**.

The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) now serves to reinforce these concerns. Whilst this technology offers considerable opportunities in sectors such as education, health, agriculture, research and public administration, it can also be used for malicious purposes. The automated production of misleading content, the creation of deepfakes, the mass dissemination of disinformation and the automation of certain cyberattacks now pose genuine threats to social cohesion, digital security and public trust in information.

In this context, the protection of the national cyberspace constitutes a strategic imperative. This requires not only the strengthening of cybersecurity mechanisms, but also the promotion of a culture of digital responsibility grounded in respect for the law, institutions, republican values and the higher interests of the nation. This is the very essence of digital patriotism, which calls upon every citizen to behave responsibly in the digital sphere and to contribute to the preservation of Cameroon's digital sovereignty.

Under the distinguished leadership of the President of the Republic and under the coordination of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is stepping up initiatives aimed at promoting innovation, digital entrepreneurship, digital inclusion and cybersecurity. Among these is ICT Innovation Week, which, over the course of its previous editions, has become a leading national

platform for promoting the creative genius of young people and showcasing technological innovations.

Following the success of previous editions, the 5th edition of ICT Innovation Week is taking place against a backdrop characterised by the accelerating use of artificial intelligence, the proliferation of cyber threats and the pressing need to promote responsible digital citizenship. Placed under the theme: **“Protecting Cyberspace from the Misuse of Artificial Intelligence and Promoting Digital Patriotism”**, this edition seeks to raise public awareness of the challenges associated with artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, to promote best digital practices, and to encourage the development of innovative solutions capable of contributing to the protection of cyberspace and to the development of Cameroon.

II- OBJECTIVES

1- Overall Objective

To mobilise stakeholders within the national digital ecosystem around issues relating to the protection of cyberspace, the responsible use of artificial intelligence and the promotion of digital patriotism, whilst encouraging innovation and rewarding the best ICT projects led by young Cameroonians.

2- Specific Objectives

- To identify and reward digital innovations that contribute to the protection of cyberspace, the fight against disinformation and the development of Cameroon;
- To build the capacity of digital project leaders through training, coaching, mentoring and pitch preparation;
- To foster the emergence of a dynamic digital entrepreneurship sector capable of generating employment;

- To promote the creative genius of young Cameroonians and to increase the visibility of digital innovations developed at the national level;
- To promote an ethical, responsible and patriotic use of cyberspace.

III- EXPECTED - RESULTS

By the end of the 5th edition of ICT Innovation Week:

- The year's best ICT projects will have been identified, recognised and supported through the various support mechanisms established by MINPOSTEL;
- The capabilities of young innovators will have been strengthened;
- Digital innovations that incorporate stringent requirements for personal data protection and cybersecurity from the design stage onwards will have been highlighted and promoted;
- Collaboration among the various stakeholders in the digital ecosystem will have been reinforced;
- Public awareness of the challenges posed by artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and digital patriotism will have been raised.

IV - TARGET AUDIENCE, PRIORITY AREAS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR THE BEST ICT PROJECT COMPETITION

1-Target Audience

- Young people with ICT ideas or projects in all ten regions of Cameroon meeting the following criteria:
 - Be of Cameroonian nationality;
 - Have an innovative ICT project;
 - Reside within Cameroon.

N.B : - *Start-ups already in operation (operational and generating revenue) are not eligible for the competition.*

- *Applications from women are strongly encouraged.*

2. Priority Areas

Projects submitted to the 2026 National Competition for the Best ICT Project must fall within one or more of the following areas:

A. Cybersecurity

- Detection and prevention of cyberattacks;
- Securing information systems;
- Personal data protection;
- Security of critical networks and infrastructure;
- Tools to combat digital fraud.

B. Combating Disinformation and Promoting Digital Patriotism

- Fact-checking;
- Detection of fake news and deepfakes;
- Protection of digital identity.

C. Governance and Public Services

- E-government;
- Digitisation of administrative procedures.

D. Education

- E-learning;
- Training in digital skills;
- Innovative educational solutions;
- Digital inclusion of young people and vulnerable groups.

E. Health

- Telemedicine;
- Digital management of medical records;
- Medical assistance applications;
- Solutions to improve access to healthcare.

F. Smart Agriculture and Rural Development

- Precision agriculture;
- Decision-support systems for producers;
- Digital marketing of agricultural products;
- Digital solutions for rural development.

G. Financial Inclusion and FinTech

- Digital payments;
- Innovative financial services;
- Banking inclusion.

H. Environment and Sustainable Development

- Smart waste management;
- Environmental monitoring;
- Adaptation to climate change.

I. Any Other Innovative Project Using ICT

Any project that is innovative in nature, has a proven socio-economic impact and contributes to Cameroon's development may be eligible to enter the competition.

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3- Assessment criteria

No.	CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	SCORING
1	Relevance of the project	Does the project address a clearly identified, genuine need? Is the problem it addresses of significance to the people, businesses or public authorities of Cameroon?	20 points
2	Innovative Nature of the Solution	Does the proposed solution constitute a significant innovation relative to existing alternatives? Does it offer a novel approach, a substantial improvement, or a technological breakthrough?	15 points
3	Technical feasibility	Is the project technically feasible? Are the proposed technologies either mastered or readily accessible? Is the project's level of maturity (prototype, MVP, functional product) consistent with the stated objectives?	15 points
4	Socio-Economic Impact	Is the project likely to generate measurable positive effects on society or the economy? Does it contribute to job creation, digital inclusion, improved services, or enhanced productivity?	15 points
5	Business Model and Sustainability	Does the project possess a credible business model capable of ensuring its financial viability in the medium and long term? Are the revenue streams and development prospects clearly identified?	10 points
6	Use of AI in the Proposed Solution	Is artificial intelligence integrated in a relevant and justified manner? Does its use provide tangible added value in terms of automation, analysis, prediction, personalisation, or decision support?	10 points
7	Contribution to Digital Patriotism and Cybersecurity	Does the project contribute to promoting the responsible and ethical use of digital technology in Cameroon? Does it advance data protection, the security of information systems, and the fight against cybercrime, disinformation, or harmful online content?	15 points

V- PROCEDURES

- **For the competition for the best ICT project**

- a special on-line registration site will be set up for candidates wishing to participate in the competition;
- an internal committee will be set up to shortlist the best applications;
- Setting up a jury including the best experts in the field, which will draw up its own rules of procedure and define the rules of the competition, to be approved in advance by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications;
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- Organising a prize-giving ceremony for the winners.

- **For the ICT Innovation Week**

- Organisation of discussion forums: public conferences on topics related to the theme of the week and workshops led by experts for young people involved in ICTs.
- - Capacity building (coaching, counselling and preparation for the pitch talk) for the pre-selected candidates in a boot camp;
- Exchange of experiences with former start-ups;
- Exhibition of innovations.

VI - ORGANISATION, DATES AND VENUES

1- Organisation

The **5th edition of ICT Innovation Week (SIN 2026)** is organised by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MINPOSTEL) and held under the **Distinguished Patronage of the President of the Republic**.

The flagship activities of ICT Innovation Week are:

- The **2026 National Competition for the Best ICT Project**, with the award of the **President of the Republic's Special Prize** to the best digital project of the year;
- The **Innovators' Bootcamp**, designed to build the capacity of shortlisted project leaders;
- **Public conferences, panel discussions and themed workshops** focusing on the challenges of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and digital patriotism;
- **Start-up Day**, dedicated to coaching, mentoring, networking and sharing experiences;

- The exhibition of innovative projects, enabling young people to showcase their expertise, products and digital solutions;
- The **official awards ceremony** for the competition winners.

The activities will take place in person and/or via videoconference, to enable broad participation by stakeholders in the digital ecosystem across the entire country.

2- Dates and Venues

The 2026 National Competition for the Best ICT Project will run from **22 June to 31 July 2026**.

ICT Innovation Week (properly speaking) will be held from **27 to 31 July 2026** in Yaoundé, at various venues depending on the scheduled activities, notably:

- The conference hall of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications;
- The Cameroon Digital Innovation Center (CDIC);
- Any other venue selected by the Organising Committee.

The activities are scheduled as follows:

No.	ACTION	DATE
1	Launch of the competition at a press conference hosted by the Minister for Posts and Telecommunications	22/06/2026
2	Online registration via the platform www.ictinnovationweek.cm	22 June - 22 July 2026 at 3.30 pm
3	Sessions of the Internal Committee responsible for shortlisting projects	2 July - 23 July 2026
4	Publishing of the list of pre-selected projects	24 July 2026 at 12 noon
5	Arrival and installation of participants in Yaounde	25 - 26 July 2026
6	Launch of the ICT Innovation Week	27 July 2026
7	Bootcamp: digital sprint experience -	27 - 29 July 2026
8	Start-up Day - Exhibition - Masterclass - Sharing of experiences	29 July 2026
9	Final pitch	30 July 2026
10	Official awards ceremony for the winners (face-to-face and via videoconference).	31 July 2026