

Cameroon

<b>Background</b>	<b>Name of EMB:</b>	Elections Cameroon (ELECAM)
	<b>Status:</b>	Permanent
	<b>Number of commissioners:</b>	18
	<b>Number of full-time EMB staff:</b>	2,500
	<b>Constitutional and/or legislative provisions for establishment of the EMB:</b>	Electoral Code; Decree of Application; Law on Political Parties; Resolutions of The Board.
<b>Establishment of the EMB</b>	<b>EMB's mandate:</b>	ELECAM organises, manages and supervises presidential, senatorial, parliamentary, council and regional elections, as well as referenda all over the country.
	<b>EMB model:</b>	Independent
	<b>What standards are established in the constitution or other legislation for democratic legitimacy?</b>	Political parties shall work with their members to make informed choices. ELECAM members shall, under no circumstances, seek or receive instructions or orders from any public or private authority during the performance of their duties. They may not be prosecuted, investigated, arrested, detained or tried for their views expressed in the performance of their duties. Save in cases of <i>in flagrante delicto</i> , they may not be prosecuted during their tenure of office. The duties of members of ELECAM shall be incompatible with those of candidates standing for the elections supervised by ELECAM. The minister of finance shall disburse funds to ELECAM as priority state expenditure. ELECAM shall have an annual budget and an elections budget in an election year. The accounts of ELECAM shall be audited annually by the relevant state services.
<b>Appointment, tenure and removals</b>	<b>Provisions for the appointment of commissioners:</b>	ELECAM members shall be appointed by Presidential Decree upon consultation with political parties represented in the National Assembly and civil society. The Director-General of Elections and his or her deputy shall be appointed by the President of the Republic.

	<p><b>Political status of commissioners:</b></p> <p>ELECAM members shall be designated from among independent personalities of Cameroonian nationality, recognised for their competence, moral uprightness, intellectual honesty, patriotism, neutrality and impartiality.</p> <p><b>Chair qualifications:</b></p> <p>None specified</p> <p><b>Commissioner qualifications:</b></p> <p>None specified</p> <p><b>Tenure of chair and commissioners:</b></p> <p>ELECAM members have a four-year renewable mandate, while the Director-General of Elections and his or her deputy have a renewable five-year term.</p> <p><b>Provisions for the removal of commissioners:</b></p> <p>The President of the Republic may terminate the term of office of a member of the Electoral Board or that of the Director-General of Elections or his or her deputy for gross misconduct (or physical or mental incapacity), duly established by the Electoral Board.</p> <p><b>Provisions for the appointment of EMB senior staff:</b></p> <p>At the level of the Director-General of Elections, senior staff are appointed by the Director-General on approval of the Electoral Board; at the regional delegation by the Electoral Board on the proposition of the Director-General; at the divisional and council levels by the Director-General on the approval of the Electoral Board.</p> <p><b>Tenure of EMB senior staff:</b></p> <p>None specified</p> <p><b>Provisions for the removal of EMB senior staff:</b></p> <p>The Director-General of Elections shall be vested with all powers necessary for the performance of his or her duties. He shall be the authorising officer of the budget of ELECAM, which budget shall have priority over state expenditure.</p>
<b>Funding arrangements</b>	<p><b>Setting and control of EMB's budget:</b></p> <p>The Director-General of Elections prepares the draft budget. It is examined and adopted by the Electoral Board. The accounts are audited by relevant state services.</p> <p><b>Financial autonomy:</b></p> <p>None specified</p>
<b>Electoral system</b>	<p><b>Legal provisions for financial autonomy:</b></p> <p>The Director-General of Elections shall be vested with all powers necessary for the performance of his duties. He shall be the authorising officer of the budget of ELECAM, which budget shall have priority over state expenditure.</p> <p><b>Number of chambers/houses within the legislature:</b></p> <p>Bicameral – National Assembly (lower house) and Senate (upper house).</p>

	<b>Voting system:</b>	Presidential elections are by simple majority. There is a mixed system for other elections: simple majority, absolute majority, proportional representation.
	<b>Amendments to electoral laws:</b>	Most bills are government bills. Private member bills hardly 'sail through' parliament. The opinion of ELECAM may be given if requested by the 'powers that be'.
	<b>Drafting of electoral regulations:</b>	None specified
<b>Electoral disputes</b>	<b>Electoral dispute resolution mechanisms:</b>	Mixed Electoral Commissions, Electoral Board and Courts of Appeal for pre-electoral disputes; Supreme Court (Constitutional Council) for electoral and post-electoral disputes.
<b>Other issues:</b>		
<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>Administrative autonomy:</b>	Yes
	<b>Women in senior positions:</b>	Forty (approximately 45 per cent)
	<b>Administrative structure:</b>	<p>The Electoral Board (18 members) ensures the smooth functioning of Elections Cameroon and also ensure compliance with the electoral law by all stakeholders for the purpose of guaranteeing regular, impartial, free, fair, transparent and credible polls.</p> <p>The Directorate General of Elections (DGE) is responsible for the preparation and material organization of election and referendum operations, under the supervision of the Electoral Board. The DGE is supported by Support Bodies, as laid down by the Electoral Board on the recommendation of the DGE.</p> <p>The Support Bodies of the Directorate General of Elections function under the authority of the Director General of Elections.</p> <p>Elections Cameroon has branches at regional (10 branches), divisional (58 branches) and council levels (360 branches).</p>