

# DIGITAL TRADE REGULATORY INTEGRATION

## COUNTRY PROFILE

### **Cameroon**



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa



# INTRODUCTION

The African Trade Policy Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has embarked on a Digital Trade Regulatory Integration (DTRI) initiative with four primary objectives:

- Provide information on digital services trade regulations that could facilitate the negotiation and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Protocol on Digital Trade.
- Inform the development of a digital trade integration index that could become a component of the Africa Regional Integration Index.<sup>1</sup>
- Inform the addition of African countries to the Digital Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (Digital STRI), as developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
- Offer a solid basis for further analytical work by ECA and others on digital trade.

The DTRI initiative researches the legal and regulatory environment associated with digital trade and will help African countries bet-

ter understand and address barriers to the growth and development of digital trade and e-commerce. Addressing the issues DTRI identifies will help promote digital trade and e-commerce and make it a more plausible choice for commercial transactions between businesses and consumers.

This country profile is based on observations from two datasets developed from the DTRI initiative. The first includes information on restrictions to digital services trade from 2014 to 2021 and is modelled after the Digital STRI. The second covers measures related to digital trade integration, beginning with the effective date of each measure, and reflects the latest available information. The legal and regulatory measures researched are categorized into policy areas in both digital services trade restrictions and digital trade integration, and the results are presented in the corresponding section of the profile. Where policy areas overlap, the profile presents results only once, to the extent possible.

This country profile presents the key findings for Cameroon.

<sup>1</sup> See <https://arii.uneca.org/>.

# RESTRICTIVENESS OF THE REGULATORY REGIME FOR DIGITAL SERVICES TRADE

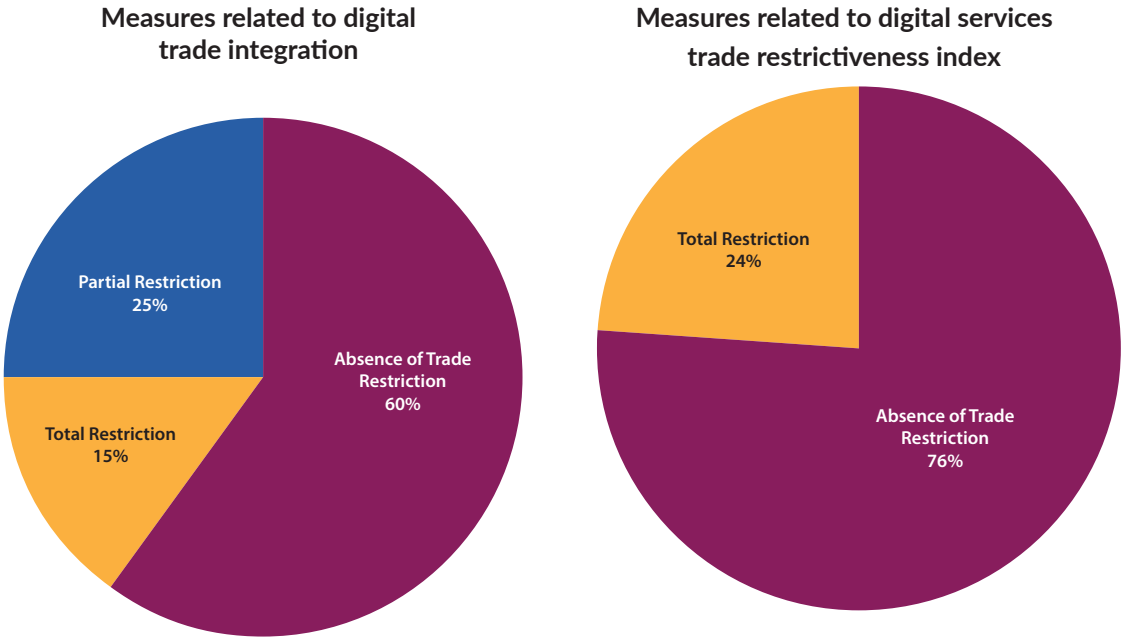
To assess the degree of restrictiveness among digital services trade in Cameroon, an in-depth review of policies, legislation and regulations on digital services trade restrictions was conducted under the five pillars of the Digital STRI:

- Infrastructure and connectivity.
- Electronic transactions.

- Payment systems.
- Intellectual property.
- Other barriers affecting trade in digitally enabled services.

Findings on the degree of restrictiveness of the regulatory environment in Cameroon (see annexes I and II) are summarized in figure 1. Overall, 60 per cent of measures related to digital trade integration and 76 per cent

**Figure 1: Restrictiveness of Digital Trade in Cameroon (Percentage)**



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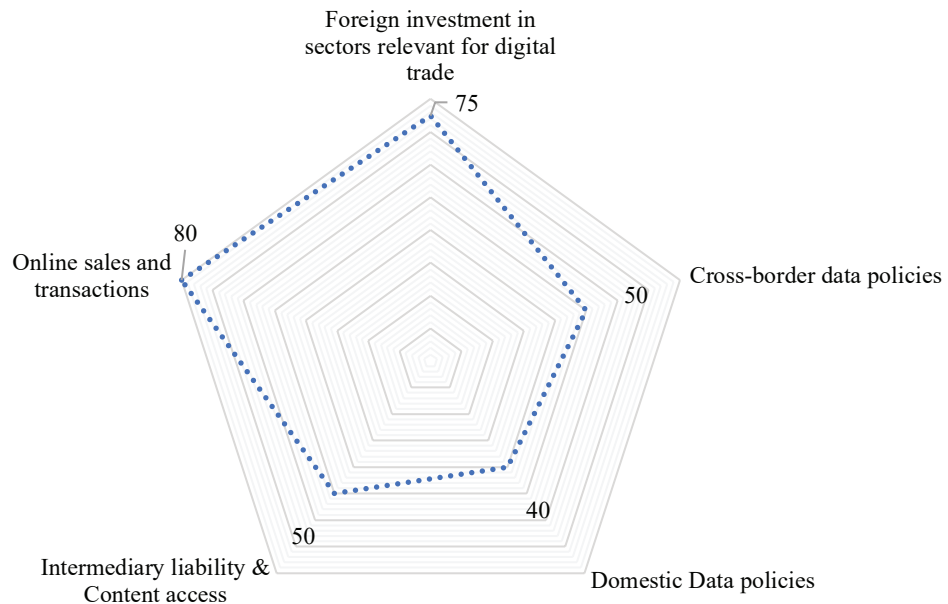
## DIGITAL TRADE REGULATORY INTEGRATION

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cent of measures related to the digital STRI can be categorized under “absence of trade restriction,” while 15 per cent of measures related to digital trade integration and 24 per cent of measures related to the digital STRI can be categorized under “total restriction.”

More than three-quarters (76 per cent) of measures do not impede digital trade in Cameroon, but there are differences across the measures. For example, electronic transactions is the only pillar in which no restrictions have been found. This is closely followed by intellectual property rights (83 per cent of measures are not restrictive of

**Figure II: Share of “absence of restriction” within each pillar in measures related to digital trade integration (Percentage)**

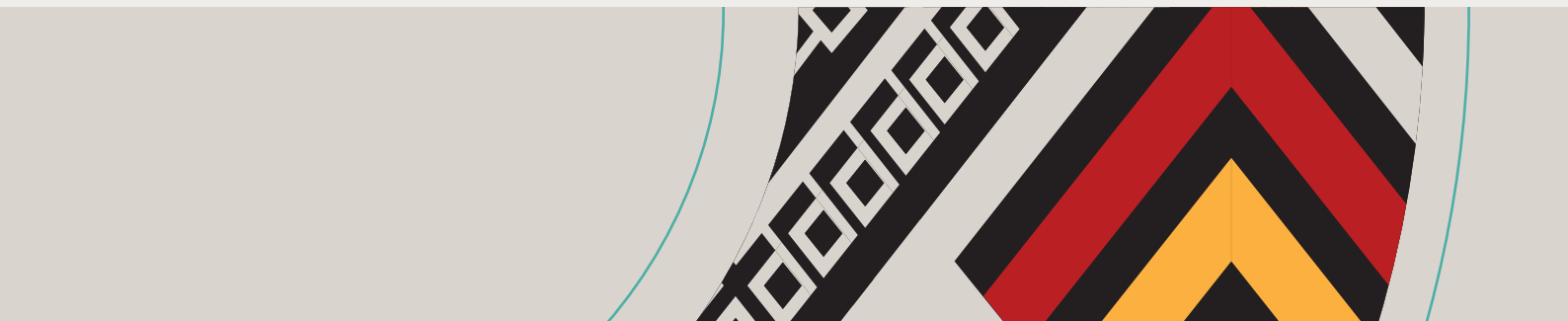


digital trade).

Restrictive policies were found for the infrastructure and connectivity pillar. For example, vertical separation is required (fixed/mobile), non-discriminatory internet traffic management is mandated, there is at least one dominant firm in the market segment considered (mobile origin), cross-border transfer is allowed when certain private sector safeguards are in place, and certain data must be stored locally for cross-border data flows (see annex II).

Some other measures are also restrictive. These include restrictions on internet banking or insurance in payment systems, discriminatory treatment for the protection of copyrights and related rights in intellectual property, performance requirements affecting cross-border digital trade, limitations on downloading and streaming affecting cross-border digital trade, and other barriers affecting trade in digitally enabled services.

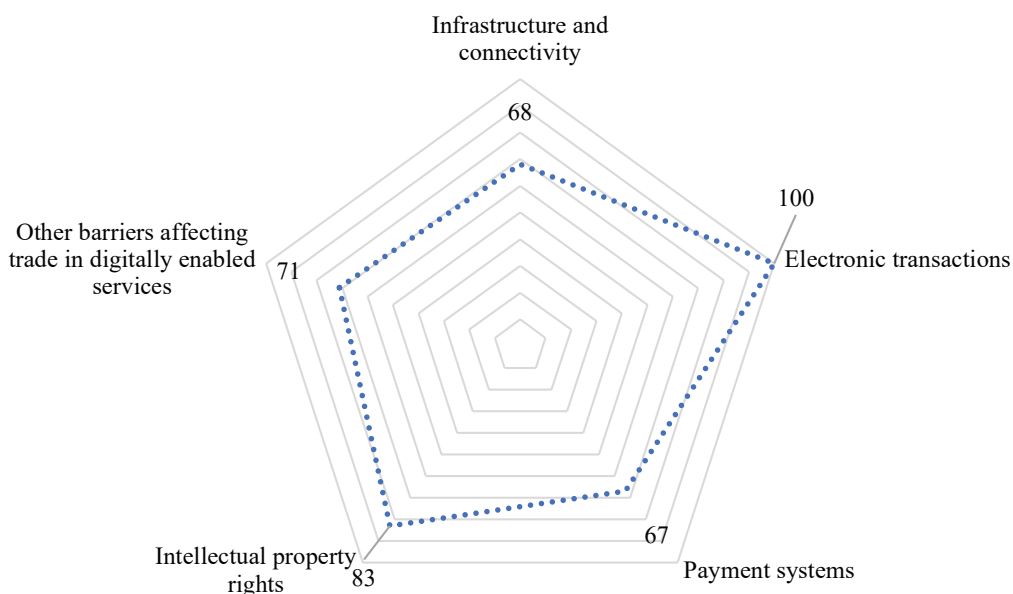
# INDICATORS OF DIGITAL TRADE INTEGRATION



This section discusses measures related to the level of digital trade integration in Cameroon. The regulatory regime of digital trade integration was assessed under 11 pillars:

- Tariff and trade defence on measures applied to intraregional imports of information and communication technology (ICT) goods.
- Public procurement of digital goods and services.
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) for digital trade.
- Intellectual property rights.
- Telecommunications infrastructure and competition.
- Cross-border data policies.
- Domestic data policies.

**Figure III: Share of 'absence of restrictions' within each pillar of measures related to digital trade integration (%)**



- Intermediary liability and content access.
- Quantitative trade restrictions.
- Standards.
- Online sales and transactions.

Since the findings for some of these pillars are discussed in the previous section on Digital STRI, to the extent possible, a duplicative discussion is avoided in this section.

The economy of Cameroon is somewhat digitally integrated and open to intra-African digital trade. Openness is driven primarily by online sales and transactions, closely followed by foreign investment for digital trade (see figure III).

Only 15 per cent of Cameroon's economy is totally closed, but this 15 percent could have a negative impact on trade. Measures considered to be totally restrictive were found in screening of investment and acquisitions in sectors relevant to digital trade;

user identity requirement/monitoring requirement; and restrictions on e-payment, credit cards and other forms of online payment services/lack of legal framework for electronic transactions/e-signatures (see annex I).

Another 25 percent of measures reveal partial restrictiveness of digital trade and could also negatively affect trade. Among these, domestic data policies are the most restrictive. Lack of a legal framework for data protection is one of the most restrictive measures related to domestic data policies. This is because only sectoral legislation is applicable to domestic data. Further, rules specifying a maximum period of data retention and low business-to-consumer internet use impede integration. Other pillars with partial restrictions are cross-border data policies and intermediary liability and content access. Restrictions relate to local storage requirement of traffic data and blocking or filtering of commercial web content.

# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, regulations in Cameroon are not restrictive of digital trade: 60 per cent of measures related to digital trade integration and 76 per cent of measures related to the digital STRI do not restrict trade. The restrictions that affect digital trade integration mainly concern online sales and transactions and foreign investment in sectors relevant to digital trade. Restrictions that affect the digital STRI concern mainly electronic transactions and intellectual property rights.

Some regulatory measures are either totally restrictive (15 per cent for measures related to digital trade integration and 24 per cent for measures related to the digital services trade restrictiveness index) or partially restrictive (25 per cent for measures related to digital trade integration), which could be detrimental to the continental integration of digital trade

The totally restrictive measures related to digital trade integration are:

- Screening of investment and acquisitions in sectors relevant to digital trade.

- User identity requirement/monitoring requirement.
- Restrictions on e-payment, credit cards and other forms of online payment services and lack of legal framework for electronic transactions or e-signatures.

The totally restrictive measures related to the digital STRI are:

- Requirement of vertical separation (fixed/ mobile).
- Mandated non-discriminatory internet traffic management.
- At least one dominant firm in the market segment considered (mobile origin).
- Cross-border transfer possible when certain private sector safeguards are in place.
- Requirement for local storage of certain data involved in cross-border data flows.
- Restrictions on internet banking or insurance.
- Discriminatory treatment in the protection of copyrights and related intellectual property rights.



- Performance requirements affecting cross-border digital trade.
- Limitations on downloading and streaming affecting cross-border digital trade.

The partial restrictions related to digital trade integration are:

- Lack of legal framework for data protection (sectoral legislation only).
- Maximum period of data retention.
- Low score for business-to-consumer internet use.
- Requirement for local storage of traffic data.
- Blocking or filtering of commercial web content.

To facilitate Cameroon's participation in African digital trade regulatory integration and to improve its score for measures related to digital trade integration and to the digital STRI, national and regional legislation must be amended to lift these total and partial restrictions. Amendment of Act No. 2010/021 of 21 December 2010 governing electronic commerce, currently under discussion, and the future law on the protection of personal data, now being prepared, offer opportunities to improve digital trade integration.

## Annex 1: Digital trade integration-related measures for Cameroon

Chapter	Measure	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
<b>1 Foreign investment in sectors relevant for digital trade</b>				
1,1	Maximum foreign equity share for investment in sectors relevant for digital trade	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law No. 2002/004 of April 19, 2002 on the Charter of Investments in the Republic of Cameroon;</li> <li>• Law No. 2013/004 of April 18, 2013 establishing incentives for private investment in the Republic of Cameroon.</li> </ul>	
1,2	Requirement to engage in joint ventures in order to invest or operate in sectors relevant to the digital economy in sectors relevant for digital trade	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law No. 2002/004 of April 19, 2002 on the Charter of Investments in the Republic of Cameroon;</li> <li>• Law No. 2013/004 of April 18, 2013 establishing incentives for private investment in the Republic of Cameroon.</li> </ul>	
1,3	Nationality or residency requirement for the members of the board of directors or managers in sectors relevant for digital trade	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law No. 2002/004 of April 19, 2002 on the Charter of Investments in the Republic of Cameroon;</li> <li>• Law No. 2013/004 of April 18, 2013 establishing incentives for private investment in the Republic of Cameroon.</li> </ul>	

Chapter	Measure	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
1,4	Screening of investment and acquisitions in sectors relevant for digital trade	Total Restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law No. 2013/004 of April 18, 2013 establishing incentives for private investment in the Republic of Cameroon, Chapter 1 -Section 14</li> </ul>	Cameroon has a screening process, which is applicable to all domestic and foreign investments. This screening process ensures that investors meet the criteria (as specified in Chapter 1 -Section 14 of the Law N° 2013/004 of 18 April 2013 to lay down private investment incentives in the Republic of Cameroon), such as employment and export quantities, to qualify for private investment incentives.
2	Cross-border data policies			
2,1	Ban to transfer and local processing requirement	Partial Restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/012 of December 21, 2010 on cyber-security and cybercrime in Cameroon, Article 25 (4);</li> <li>REGULATION N ° 03/16-CEMAC-UMAC-CM of December 21, 2016 relating to payment systems, means and incidents, Article 218 (new)</li> </ul>	In Cameroon, there is no specific legal provision on the location of data and its transmission outside the national territory. However, it is established that data must be stored in a device/system present on the Cameroonian territory on which it was generated. For instance, in telecommunications, network operators and providers of electronic communications services have the obligation to keep connection and traffic data for a period of ten (10) years under the law on cybersecurity (Article 25 (1)) .; In terms of financial data, personal data is stored by the Central Bank which ensures its security and confidentiality (Article 218 (new) of Regulation No. 03/16-CEMAC-UMAC-CM of December 21, 2016 relating to systems, payment methods and incidents).
	Local storage requirement			
	Infrastructure requirement			

Chapter	Measure	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
2,2	Conditional flow regime	absence of trade restriction		
3	Domestic Data policies			
3,1	Lack of legal framework for data protection	Partial Restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime in Cameroon;</li> <li>• The E-Communications Consumer Protection Decree No. 2013/0399/PM of 27 February 2013;</li> <li>• Directive No. 07/08-UEAC-133-CM-18 of December 19, 2008 on the Legal Framework for the Protection of Users of Electronic Communications Networks and Services within CEMAC</li> </ul>	<p>There is no comprehensive data protection framework. The most comprehensive legal framework on domestic data protection is the Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime in Cameroon. Also Decree No. 2013/0399/PM of 27 February 2013 Laying Down the Rules for the Protection of Consumers of Electronic Communications Services. Within the CEMAC zone, the E-Communications Consumer Protection Decree urges operators to guarantee the confidentiality of electronic communications and data on their networks.</p>
3,2	Minimum/maximum period for data retention	Partial Restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime in Cameroon, Article 25 (1);</li> <li>• Directive No. 07/08-UEAC-133-CM-18 of December 19, 2008 on the Legal Framework for the Protection of Users of Electronic Communications Networks and Services within CEMAC, Chapter 7: Processing of personal data; Article 16</li> </ul>	<p>According to Article 25 (1), Section I (Protection of communication networks) of Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime in Cameroon, network operators and providers of electronic communications services have the obligation to keep connection and traffic data for a period of ten (10) years.</p>

Chapter	Measure	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
3,3	Requirement to perform an impact assessment (DPIA) or have a data protection officer (DPO)	absence of trade restriction		
3,4	Requirement to allow the government to access personal data collected	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime in Cameroon, Article 25(2), Section I(Protection des reseaux de communication)</li> </ul>	
3,5	Business-to-consumer Internet use (NRI, pillar 7.5)	Partial Restriction		
4	Intermediary liability & Content access			
4,1	Lack of safe harbor for intermediaries to shield them from liability for third party content	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter IX, SECTION III (Obligations of providers of Access, Services and Content), Article 34 (2) of Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime in Cameroon,</li> </ul>	
4,2	User identity requirement/ Monitoring requirement	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law No. 2010/013 of 21 December 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, CHAPTER VIII (IDENTIFICATION OF SUBSCRIBERS AND TERMINALS), Article 55 (1)</li> <li>Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime in Cameroon , Article 25 (2), section I (Protection of communication networks)</li> </ul>	Chapter VIII (Identification of subscribers and terminals), Article 55 (1) of the Law No. 2010/013 of 21 December 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon prescribes operators of electronic communications networks open to the public, as well as service providers, at the time of any subscription to proceed to identification of subscribers and terminals. They maintain lists of subscribers.

Chapter	Measure	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
4,3	Blocking or filtering of commercial web content	Partial restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime in Cameroon, Article 46 (2), Article 72(1)</li> </ul>	<p>Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime in Cameroon: In accordance of Article 46 (2): the content providers of electronic communications networks and information systems, have the obligation to set up filters for deal with harmful attacks on the personal data and privacy of users. In accordance of Article 72(1): In the event of a serious event affecting the security of the State, the President of the Republic may prescribe to operators and service providers, any measure ranging from the restriction of access to certain services until the temporary suspension of electronic communications, on all or part of the national territory. This was the case in 2017 when the Cameroonian government ordered telecommunications service providers to completely shut down the Internet network in the English-speaking region. In 2018, evidence by Netblocks suggests that Facebook and WhatsApp were throttled the day before the country's election results were released.</p>
4,4	Discriminatory use of license schemes for internet services providers and applications, including strict licences on news providers and other digital services providers	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, Chapter I (Restrictions and Derogations), Article 3.1</li> </ul>	
5	Online sales and transactions			

Chapter	Measure	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
5,1	Restrictions to online sales, including on delivery	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, Article 3.1</li> </ul>	
5,2	Restrictions to e-payment, credit cards and other forms of online payment services/ Lack of legal framework for electronic transactions/e-signatures	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instruction n ° 008 / GR / 2019 relating to the terms and conditions of use outside the CEMAC of electronic payment instruments, issued on June 10, 2019, Article 7</li> </ul>	<p>Instruction n ° 008 / GR / 2019 relating to the terms and conditions of use outside the CEMAC of electronic payment instruments, issued on June 10, 2019 refers to the remote settlement of transactions, in particular online payments up to a limit of one million francs (1,793,4412 US Dollars), per month and per person (Article 7). This limit is increased to 5 million francs (8,967.206 US Dollars) for payment and withdrawal operations at counters and terminals located outside CEMAC. This instruction supports Article 34 of the Regulation on foreign exchange regulations in CEMAC which provides that "the use outside CEMAC of electronic payment instruments is restricted to current transactions within the limits of the thresholds provided for in this Regulation."</p>
5,3	Customs rules fail to impose 'De Minimis' rule	absence of trade restriction	Since 2019	
5,4	Restrictions on domain names such as the registration of a local domain name a requirement for electronic retail or a physical presence required for the registration of a local domain name	absence of trade restriction		

Chapter	Measure	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
5,5	Lack of legal framework for consumer protection when purchasing online	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Framework law-n° 2011/012 of 06 May 2011 on consumer protection in Cameroon;</li> <li>• Law No. 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing Electronic Commerce in Cameroon;</li> <li>• Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime in Cameroon</li> </ul>	



## Annex 2: DSTRI-related measures for Cameroon

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
<b>6.1 Infrastructure and connectivity</b>					
6_1_1	Interconnection is mandated (fixed),	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015; Chapter IV, Article 42 (1), 43 (1)</li> <li>Decree No. 2012/1640 / PM of June 14, 2012 setting the conditions for interconnection, access to electronic communications networks open to the public and infrastructure sharing. Adopted on June 14, 2012, Chapter II, Article 12.</li> </ul>	
6_1_1	Interconnection is mandated (mobile),	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015; Chapter IV, Article 42 (1), 43 (1)</li> <li>Decree No. 2012/1640 / PM of June 14, 2012 setting the conditions for interconnection, access to electronic communications networks open to the public and infrastructure sharing. Adopted on June 14, 2012, Chapter II, Article 12.</li> </ul>	
6_2_1	Interconnection prices and conditions are regulated (fixed),	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015; Chapter IV; Article 42(5)</li> <li>Decree No. 2012/1640 / PM of June 14, 2012 setting the conditions for interconnection, access to electronic communications networks open to the public and infrastructure sharing. Adopted on June 14, 2012, Section II (Interconnection Tariffs and Access)</li> </ul>	

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
6_2_1	Interconnection prices and conditions are regulated (mobile),	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015; Chapter IV; Article 42(5)</li> <li>Decree No. 2012/1640 / PM of June 14, 2012 setting the conditions for interconnection, access to electronic communications networks open to the public and infrastructure sharing. Adopted on June 14, 2012, Section II (Interconnection Tariffs and Access)</li> </ul>	
6_3_1	Interconnection reference offers are made public (fixed)	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015; Chapter IV; Article 42(7)</li> <li>Decree No. 2012/1640 / PM of June 14, 2012 setting the conditions for interconnection, access to electronic communications networks open to the public and infrastructure sharing. Adopted on June 14, 2012, Article 28(1)</li> </ul>	
6_3_1	Interconnection reference offers are made public (mobile)	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015; Chapter IV; Article 42(7)</li> <li>Decree No. 2012/1640 / PM of June 14, 2012 setting the conditions for interconnection, access to electronic communications networks open to the public and infrastructure sharing. Adopted on June 14, 2012, Article 28(1)</li> </ul>	

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
6_4_1	Vertical separation is required (fixed)	Yes	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decree No. 2012/1638 / PM fixing the terms of establishment and / or operation of networks and supply of electronic communications services subject to the authorization regime, adopted on June 14, 2012, Article 10</li> </ul>	Article 10 of "Decree No. 2012/1638 / PM fixing the terms of establishment and / or operation of networks and supply of electronic communications services subject to the authorization regime", adopted on June 14, 2012, provides that each operator must keep cost accounting
6_4_1	Vertical separation is required (mobile)	Yes	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decree No. 2012/1638 / PM fixing the terms of establishment and / or operation of networks and supply of electronic communications services subject to the authorization regime, adopted on June 14, 2012, Article 10</li> </ul>	Article 10 of "Decree No. 2012/1638 / PM fixing the terms of establishment and / or operation of networks and supply of electronic communications services subject to the authorization regime", adopted on June 14, 2012, provides that each operator must keep cost accounting
6_5_1	Memo: Non-discriminatory Internet traffic management is mandated,	No	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015;</li> </ul>	There is no particular provision that regulates the use of Internet traffic in a territorial space.
6_25_1	Memo: There is at least one dominant firm in the market segment considered (fixed)	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 OF December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015; Article 5(32)</li> <li>2017 Annual Observatory of the Electronic Communications Market, published in July 2018, page 19</li> </ul>	

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STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
6_25_1	Memo: There is at least one dominant firm in the market segment considered, mobile termination	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015; Article 5(32)</li> <li>2017 Annual Observatory of the Electronic Communications Market, published in July 2018, page 39</li> </ul>	
6_25_1	Memo: There is at least one dominant firm in the market segment considered, mobile origin	Yes	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015; Article 5(32)</li> <li>2017 Annual Observatory of the Electronic Communications Market, published in July 2018, page 39</li> </ul>	<p>The 2017 Annual Electronic Communications Market Observatory, published in July 2018, which is an annual report published by the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ART) in Cameroon indicates on page 39 the foreign-invested company, MTN, as the dominant operator in the mobile telephony segment. The Law governing electronic communications in Cameroon in Article 5 (32) defines the dominant operator in relation to the market share (percentage of revenues or traffic of this operator in relation to the revenues or traffic of all operators) on the market segment considered.</p>
6_6_1	Restrictions on the use of communication services	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015; Article 18</li> </ul>	

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
6_7_1	Memo: Free cross-border transfer of personal data or application of the accountability principle	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, Article 32</li> <li>Law n ° 2010/012 of December 21, 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime in Cameroon (Article 40 (1))</li> <li>Decree No. 2013/0399 / PM of February 27, 2013 setting out the terms and conditions for the protection of consumers of electronic communication services (Article 5)</li> </ul>	
6_7_2	Cross-border transfer is possible when certain private sector safeguards are in place	No	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, Article 32</li> <li>Law n ° 2010/012 of December 21, 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime in Cameroon (Article 40 (1))</li> <li>Decree No. 2013/0399 / PM of February 27, 2013 setting out the terms and conditions for the protection of consumers of electronic communication services (Article 5)</li> </ul>	There is no national law on this issue. A draft law on the protection of personal data is in preparation. This project was drafted 2 years ago by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and submitted to the hierarchy for assessment before its adoption.
6_7_3	Cross-border data flows: cross-border transfer of personal data is possible to countries with substantially similar privacy protection laws	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, Article 32</li> <li>Law n ° 2010/012 of December 21, 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime in Cameroon (Article 40 (1))</li> <li>Decree No. 2013/0399 / PM of February 27, 2013 setting out the terms and conditions for the protection of consumers of electronic communication services (Article 5)</li> </ul>	

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
6_7_4	Cross-border data flows: cross-border transfer is subject to approval on a case-by-case basis	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, Article 32</li> <li>Law n ° 2010/012 of December 21, 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime in Cameroon (Article 40 (1))</li> <li>Decree No. 2013/0399 / PM of February 27, 2013 setting out the terms and conditions for the protection of consumers of electronic communication services (Article 5)</li> </ul>	

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
6_7_5	Cross-border data flows: certain data must be stored locally	Yes	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/012 of December 21, 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime in Cameroon, Article 25(1)</li> <li>Regulation No. 03/16-CEMAC-UMAC-CM of December 21, 2016 relating to payment systems, means and incidents, Article 218 (new)</li> </ul>	<p>In Cameroon, there is no specific legal provision on the location of data and their transmission outside the national territory. However, it is established that the data must be stored in a device / system present on the Cameroonian territory on which they were generated. In telecommunications for example, network operators and providers of electronic communications services have the obligation to keep connection and traffic data for a period of ten (10) years under the law on cybersecurity (Article 25 (1)). In financial matters, personal data is stored by the Central Bank which ensures its security and confidentiality (Article 218 (new) of Regulation No. 03/16-CEMAC-UMAC-CM of December 21, 2016 relating to systems, resources and payment incidents).</p>
6_7_6	Cross-border data flows: transfer of personal data is prohibited	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, Article 32</li> <li>Law n ° 2010/012 of December 21, 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime in Cameroon (Article 40 (1))</li> <li>Decree No. 2013/0399 / PM of February 27, 2013 setting out the terms and conditions for the protection of consumers of electronic communication services (Article 5)</li> </ul>	

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STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
7	Electronic transactions				
7_1_1	Discriminatory conditions for licenses to engage in e-commerce	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law n° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, promulgated on December 21, 2010, Article 3.</li> <li>• Decree No. 2011/1521 / PM of June 15, 2011 setting the terms of application of the law governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, adopted on June 15, 2011, Article 4</li> </ul>	
7_2_1	Memo: License or authorisation is required to engage in e-commerce	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law n° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, promulgated on December 21, 2010, Article 3.</li> <li>• Decree No. 2011/1521 / PM of June 15, 2011 setting the terms of application of the law governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, adopted on June 15, 2011, Article 4</li> </ul>	
7_3_1	Online tax registration and declaration is available to non-resident foreign providers	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law N° 2019/023 of December 24, 2019 on the Finance Law of the Republic of Cameroon for the Fiscal Year 2020, Chapter III (Modalities of collection and declaration), Section I (Collection), Article 149 Quarter (2), Article L2 (3), Article C 24 (1)</li> </ul>	
7_4_1	National contract rule for cross-border transaction deviate from internationally standardised rules	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts, Adopted in New York, November 23, 2005. Entry into force March 1, 2013, last accessed 12/03/2020 (Mongolia)</li> <li>• United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, "Date of adoption: April 11, 1980 Entry into force: January 1, 1988"</li> </ul>	



STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
7_5_1	Laws or regulations explicitly protect confidential information	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2016/007 of July 12, 2016 relating to the Penal Code, Chapter III (Breaches of personal confidence), article 311 (Breach of trade secrets)</li> <li>“Bangui Agreement relating to the creation of an African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), constituting a revision of the Agreement relating to the creation of an African and Malagasy Industrial Property Office, adopted in Bangui (Central African Republic) March 2, 1977, revised February 24, 1999 and December 14, 2015, Article 67 (2)“</li> <li>Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Section 7: Protection of Undisclosed Information, Article 67 (Evidence), Paragraph 2</li> </ul>	
7_6_1	Laws or regulations provide electronic signature with the equivalent legal validity with hand-written signature	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/012 of December 21, 2010 relating to cybercrime and cybersecurity, Article 17</li> </ul>	
7_7_1	Dispute settlement mechanism exist to resolve disputes arising from cross-border digital trade	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CM Domain Name Dispute Management Policy</li> </ul>	
8_1_1	Payment systems Discriminatory access to payment settlement methods	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation No. 04/18 / CEMAC / UMAC / CO-BAC relating to payment services in CEMAC, Article 5</li> <li>Circular Letter 006 - To the attention of all Payment Service providers in CEMAC, of March 27, 2020</li> </ul>	
8_2_1	National payment security standards deviate from international standards	No	absence of trade restriction		

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
8_3_1	Restrictions on internet banking or insurance	Yes	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruction n ° 008 / GR / 2019 relating to the terms and conditions of use outside the CEMAC of electronic payment instruments, issued on June 10, 2019 with a view to facilitating the implementation of the regulation of December 21, 2018 relating to regulations exchange rates in CEMAC, Article 7, Article 5</li> </ul>	<p>For the same payment instruments (bank card with immediate debit, deferred debit or credit card and prepaid cards), Instruction n ° 008 / GR / 2019 relating to the terms and conditions of use outside the CEMAC of electronic payment instruments, taken on June 10, 2019, discriminates between means of payment. It limits the remote settlement of transactions (especially online payments) within the limit of one million francs (1,793.6589 US Dollars), per month and per person (Article 7), while for payment and withdrawal operations at counters and terminals, this ceiling is raised to 5 million francs (8,967,966 US Dollars).</p>
<b>9. Intellectual property rights</b>					
9_1_1	Foreign firms are discriminated against on trademark protection	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Bangui Agreement relating to the creation of an African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), constituting a revision of the Agreement relating to the creation of an African and Malagasy Industrial Property Office, adopted in Bangui (Central African Republic) March 2, 1977, revised February 24, 1999 and December 14, 2015, Article 5 (3), Article 25 (1) “</li> <li>• Law n ° 2016/007 of July 12, 2016 relating to the Penal Code, Chapter III (Attack on property), article 330 (Trademarks)</li> <li>• Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Part I - General Provisions and Basic Principles, Article 3</li> </ul>	

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
9_2_1	Discriminatory treatment for the protection of copyrights and related rights	Yes	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law n ° 2000/011 of December 19, 2000 on copyright and related rights, of December 19, 2000, Article 93 (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Article 93 (1) of "Law n ° 2000/011 of December 19, 2000 on copyright and neighboring rights, of December 19, 2000" provides that foreigners in Cameroon enjoy copyright or neighboring rights of which they are holders, on the condition that the law of the State of which they are nationals or on the territory of which they have their domicile, their registered office or an establishment protects the rights of Cameroonians (Principle of Reciprocity). In addition, despite having joined WIPO in 1973, Cameroon has not ratified either the WIPO Copyright Treaty or the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty. However, Cameroon has been a member of the WTO since January 1995, therefore a signatory of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Cameroon is a member of the Paris Union (Accession: February 10, 1964; in force: May 10, 1964) for the protection of industrial property and a member of the Berne Union (Declaration of continued application: September 21, 1964; in force January 1, 1960) for the protection of literary and artistic works.</p>

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
9_3_1	Memo: Exceptions to copyright protection are limited in accord with international rules	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2000/011 of December 19, 2000 on copyright and related rights, of December 19, 2000, Article 36 (2).</li> </ul>	
9_4_1	Enforcement of intellectual property rights: Judicial or administrative enforcement measures and remedies are available	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2000/011 of December 19, 2000 on copyright and related rights, of December 19, 2000, Article 85(1)</li> <li>“Bangui Agreement relating to the creation of an African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), constituting a revision of the Agreement relating to the creation of an African and Malagasy Industrial Property Office, adopted in Bangui (Central African Republic) March 2, 1977, revised February 24, 1999 and December 14, 2015, Title VI - Other legal actions and proceedings for Annex I (patents for invention), Title VII - Infringement, prosecutions and penalties for Annex II (utility models), etc. “</li> </ul>	
9_4_2	Enforcement of intellectual property rights: Provisional measures are available	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2000/011 of December 19, 2000 on copyright and related rights, of December 19, 2000, Article 85 (2)</li> </ul>	
9_4_3	Enforcement of intellectual property rights: Criminal enforcement proceedings and penalties are available  Other barriers affecting trade in digitally enabled services	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law No. 2000/011 of December 19, 2000 on copyright and related rights, of December 19, 2000, Title VI</li> </ul>	

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
9_6_1	Performance requirements affecting cross-border digital trade	Yes	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015; Article 22</li> </ul>	<p>In accordance with the regulations in force in Cameroon, there is a requirement to hire Cameroonians before foreigners: it is provided for in Article 22 of the Law on electronic communication in Cameroon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the opening to nationals, under public or private law, of the capital of concession agreement holders when it is held by foreigners, from the start of commercial exploitation;</li> <li>-integration of nationals, under public or private law, into the governing bodies of companies with predominantly foreign capital.</li> </ul>

## DIGITAL TRADE REGULATORY INTEGRATION

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
9_7_1	Limitations on downloading and streaming affecting cross-border digital trade	Yes	Total restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/012 of December 21, 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime in Cameroon, Article 25 (2)</li> </ul>	<p>In accordance with article 25 (2), section I (Protection of communication networks) of Law n ° 2010/012 of December 2010 relating to cybersecurity and cybercrime in Cameroon, network operators and service providers of electronic communications must put in place mechanisms to monitor the data traffic of their networks. These data can be consulted during judicial inquiries. Also, according to Article 72 (1), in the event of a serious event affecting the security of the State, the President of the Republic may prescribe to operators and service providers, any measure ranging from the restriction of access to certain services until the temporary suspension of electronic communications, on all or part of the national territory. This was the case in 2017 when the Cameroonian government ordered telecommunications service providers to completely shut down the Internet network in the Anglophone region, <a href="https://internetwithoutborders.org/cameroon-le-gouvernement-eteint-internet-sur-fond-political-tensions/">https://internetwithoutborders.org/cameroon-le-gouvernement-eteint-internet-sur-fond-political-tensions/</a></p>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law N ° 2010/013 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010 and revised in 2015, Article 72(1)</li> </ul>	

STRI code	Measure	Response	Level of Digital Trade protection	Laws/Acts	Trade restriction explanation
10_1_1	Restrictions on online advertising	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010</li> <li>Law N ° 2006/018 of December 29, 2006 governing advertising in Cameroon</li> </ul>	
10_2_1	Commercial presence is required in order to provide cross-border services	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010, Article 3, Article 4</li> <li>Law n ° 2016/004 of April 18, 2016 governing foreign trade in Cameroon, adopted on April 18, 2016, Article 6 (1)</li> </ul>	
10_3_1	Local presence is required in order to provide cross-border services	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, adopted on December 21, 2010, Article 3, Article 5</li> <li>Law n ° 2016/004 of April 18, 2016 governing foreign trade in Cameroon, adopted on April 18, 2016, Article 6 (1)</li> <li>Naming charter in the ".CM" zone, Article 2</li> </ul>	
10_4_1	Firms have redress when business practices restrict competition in a given market	Yes	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 98/013 of July 14, 1998 relating to competition, adopted on July 14, 1998, Article 33</li> </ul>	
10_50_1	Other restrictions on digitally enabled services	No	absence of trade restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law n ° 2010/021 of December 21, 2010 governing electronic commerce in Cameroon, Article 3</li> </ul>	



Printed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia by the ECA Printing and Publishing Unit.  
ISO 14001:2015 certified. Printed on chlorine free paper.