



NELGA KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FORUM

2nd exchange forum on the theme: "Expropriations and compensations in the framework of major development projects: the missing governance"

Date of the meeting: March 30, 2022

Modality of the meeting: virtual

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Introduction

For several decades, and in favour of the full realisation of sustainable development objectives, French-speaking African countries in general and Cameroon have embarked on the realisation of major projects (hydro-electric schemes, new towns, various communication and energy transport infrastructures, etc.). To carry out these major projects, states need land. In order to obtain it, states are sometimes forced to evict families living on the coveted areas; this is done through various mechanisms giving place to compensation and expropriation where necessary.

While it is true that expropriations for public utility and related compensation obey pre-established rules, their application is not so simple as they are likely to redraw social maps, have a lasting and sometimes negative impact on lives and thus be a source of tension and conflict. Viewing the practice in our various countries, how can we diagnose the whole expropriation and compensation process? What solutions, if applied, could make this process more credible in a context where the development of our countries remains imperative?

This presentation by **Professor TCHAWA Paul** will help us to explore the issue from top to bottom and to analyse together:

- The different facets of this reality in French-speaking African countries with its causes and consequences;
- Applied/possible solutions in a context of real integrated development that takes into account all aspects including social aspects;
- Good practices likely to improve the governance of the expropriation and compensation process in the context of major projects;
- Short- and long-term solutions to humanise this process (notably through the identification of (i) better models for the resettlement of families who have been evicted and (ii) reform of the texts) while not compromising development objectives.