



## **UN PRESS CLUB “RENCONTRE”**

The Cameroon Association of Librarians, Archivists, Documentalists, Museographers (ABADCAM), organized in partnership with United Nation System a press Club meeting focused on quality education, as one of the goals for sustainable development. The aim was to support advocacy for access to information in national development plans.

The meeting was attended by members of the association ABADCAM, information professionals of other sectors, civil society representatives, journalists, and representatives from other Universities. Special guests representative of the Ministry of Arts and Culture, the Director of the James Baldwin Resource center of the US Embassy in Cameroon and representative of Goethe Institute Yaounde. The presence of the main media houses was conspicuous. Both radio and television as well as print media participated actively in discussions.

It should be noted that each participant received an information pack containing the Lyon Declaration; The Cape Town Declaration and a copy of the Sustainable Development Goals in French and in English. Interestingly some of the SDGs have been translated into 6 local languages of Cameroon.

In his opening speech, the president of ABADCAM congratulated IFLA's efforts; engagement and successes in its advocacy to valorize libraries and their position in promoting the SDGs.

Three presentations on contribution of libraries and access to information for academic excellence were made by members of ABADCAM who came from the Central Library of the University of Yaounde I. The presentations were conceived based on IFLAs toolkits. The first speaker presented an overview of libraries and their role in promoting access to information; the second speaker focused on concrete activities that could be carried out by libraries and librarians in encouraging access to information and its impact on the SDGs as proposed in the toolkit. The third speaker presented some recommendations on what libraries and Information professionals should do to ascertain their involvement in promoting their work to support the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> SDGs which is Quality Education through access to information.

Discussions took the form of contributions, questions and answers. Contributions were centered on strategies that libraries and librarians should take to promote access to information not only to the academic milieu but to rural communities. Very pertinent contributions from partners on the way forward and the need for sustainable partnerships to better implement this objective.

IFLA'S Toolkit was very useful for us during this campaign. ABADCAM successfully organized a first meeting in a series planned to sensitize its stakeholders on the role of libraries as drivers to achieving the SDGs. The event was greatly covered and relayed over TV and radio stations. The media contributed in making the voice of ABADCAM heard everywhere.