

## PRESS RELEASE

### **COVID-19 - Economic and social measures announced by the Government on April 30th, 2020**

Following the declaration of the Prime Minister, Head of Government dated April 30th, 2020, and in which he announces "flexibility and support measures to relieve the sectors greatly affected by this health crisis", the Board of Directors of GICAM held an emergency extraordinary session on May 1st.

It examined these measures in the light of the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, the economic impacts of which had been the subject of an initial assessment in our second report on the pandemic and contributed to the proposals that the Group had made to the Government.

At the end of its work, the Board of Directors took note of the first measures taken to relieve the most affected sectors.

It also noted that its proposals have been partially taken into consideration; some of them also need to be clarified. If we welcome the decision to clear the VAT credit balance to help restore companies' cash flow, we deplore the absence of customs measures, repayment of domestic debt and the non-mobilization of bank levers.

Overall, we consider that this first set of measures constitutes a move towards the objective that we wish to see: that of restraining economic deviations and malfunctions. However, the path leading to it remains long, especially since we can already note the foreseeable weak impact of these measures, in view of the deterioration of the economy and the impoverishment of households.

Furthermore, the absence of structural measures aimed not only at supporting the cash-flow of companies greatly affected, but also at reviving their activities and the economy, remain a cause for serious concern to GICAM.

Besides, the efficiency of the first measures taken by the Government will only be effective with the establishment of economic recovery mechanisms combining budgetary, monetary and financial policies, as well as unprecedented support policies for companies and households.

In this regard, it should be emphasized that, if before the Covid-19, it was already an absolute necessity to take economic recovery measures, this crisis gives it a pressing nature which cannot admit any form of hesitation or sluggishness.

We fully join the efforts of the Government whom we urge to go further and faster in the implementation of complementary measures capable of restoring the health of companies.

In this perspective, GICAM is completely available to make its contribution, so that the next measures are far-reaching, and adapted to the current requirements and challenges. The future of our country's economy depends on it.

**Célestin TAWAMBA**  
*President*