



Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa - Programme des Relations Islamo-Chrétiennes en Afrique



LIBERIA

**POSITION STATEMENT ON THE WAY FORWARD FROM THE RECONCILIATION AND PEACE BUILDING CONFERENCE
HELD BY THE LIBERIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PROGRAMME FOR CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS IN AFRICA (PROCURA)
MARCH 24 – 26, 2010**

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STATEMENT

We, the Religious Leaders representing Christians, Muslims and non-governmental organisations operating in Liberia, convened in Monrovia, Liberia, from March 24 to 26, 2010, at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the Liberia Council of Churches(LCC), under the auspices of the Liberia Area committee of the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa, in partnership with the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA), based in Nairobi, Kenya at a conference on Reconciliation and Peace-building, under the theme, "Sustaining the Peace Through Unity."

Recognising the ONENESS of the Almighty God, the Creator of the universe;

Recognising that Christianity and Islam are two major religions in Liberia;

Recognising the ardent and sacred responsibilities given by the Almighty God to Leaders of the two religions to convey the message of peace, love, unity, freedom, justice and liberty to their followers;

And whereas it is incumbent on the followers of these two religions (according to the teachings of their Holy Books) to recognize the respect the rights and dignity of their fellow human beings, irrespective of race, colour, class, ethnic affiliation or religion.

We have therefore assembled to address the following:

- Religious leaders as agent of peace
- Peace between Christians and Muslims as a prerequisite for Christian and Muslim religious leaders advocacy for peace within the wider society
- Negative religious expansionist policies
- Ethnicity allied to religion
- Globalisation/internationalisation/importation/exportation of conflicts
- The challenge of translating good precepts in religion into good practice in everyday life
- Negative solidarity
- Causes of conflicts (immediate and root causes)
- Advocacy for peace by example
- Overview of the present state of Christian-Muslim Relations in the Mano River Area
- Current Christian-Muslim relations in Liberia
- Challenges to Social Cohesion and Religious Plurality in Liberia as it relates to the Rule of Law
- The Role of Religious Leaders in Peace Building

In recognition of the deliberations, the Conference resolved on a positive Way Forward:

- Encourage Church groups not belonging to LCC to come in and work with the Council
- Take the conference to the counties
- Zone up the country to have Muslim and Christian leaders to jointly carry out the dialogue within their communities
- Put state interest ahead of religious or ethnic interests, then work together in unity for peace
- Transform recommendations into project proposals for implementation
- Involve the media to propagate and promote the message of peace and reconciliation
- Reinforce intra-Christian and intra-Muslim relations and meetings

Acknowledgements

The Conference acknowledges with gratitude, the support by PROCMURA for funding the Conference and extends special gratitude to all those who made the Conference possible and successful.

To God be the glory for the great things He has done and continues to do in our lives

Done in the Conference Room of the Liberian Council of Churches, in the City of Monrovia, Liberia, this 26th day of March, 2010

Signed on behalf of all Conference Participants

Rev. St. John York, PROCMURA Liberia Area Advisor

Approved:

Rev. Emmanuel F. Johnson, I
Acting Area Committee Chairperson, PROCMURA Liberia Area