



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



PROCMURA SEASONAL SCHOOL, JOS, NIGERIA.

DATE: 25TH - 29TH NOVEMBER, 2019.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

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We, thirty (30) Church leaders from various Christian denominations representing different states in Nigeria, gathered here in Jos, Plateau State, for the maiden **PROCMURA SEASONAL SCHOOL** which focused on how Religious Leaders can be Agents of Transformation in the Ethno-Religious Dimensions of conflicts in some parts of Nigeria;

Having had five days (25th - 29th November 2019) of in-depth analysis from experts on Ethno-religious Conflicts in Africa; Lived Situational Analysis of Ethno-religious Conflicts in Nigeria North, West, and East; Effects of Ethno-religious Conflicts on Women and Youth in Nigeria; Implications of Herdsmen-Farmers Conflict in Nigeria; Religion, Power and Territorialisation; The Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing/Managing Ethno-religious Conflicts; Trauma healing among others;

Given the Opportunity to share experiences from the different parts of Nigeria and to map out programmes for action that would enable us to prevent, manage and assist those affected by ethno-religious conflicts do hereby acknowledge that:

- Nigeria has experienced ethno-religious conflicts;
- There is growing intolerance and suspicion among and between people of various ethnic and religious affiliations;
- There is an increase in numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs);
- Socio-economic security in affected areas is very low;
- There is mass migration and relocation of people in affected areas;
- Unlawful removal and restructuring of chiefdoms has taken place;
- Seizing and grabbing of land is becoming rampant;
- There is an influx of strange persons in the communities;
- There exist discriminative settlement patterns along religious and ethnic divides;
- Increase violation of freedom of speech is prevalent ;
- Political affiliation on the basis of religion and ethnicity is gradually becoming the norm in Nigerian society;
- Physical and psychological violence leading to trauma is of grave concern to all who mean well for all Nigerians.

CONSCIOUS that as Christian religious leaders we owe it a duty to God and to humanity to advocate and work for justice, peace, peaceful co-existence and reconciliation;

WE DO HEREBY COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

- Raise awareness and enlighten communities on the ills of ethno-religious conflicts through conferences, workshops and seminars;
- Continue with the PROCMURA Seasonal School concept by enhancing the capacity of church leaders on the prevention and management of ethno-religious conflicts through church denominational trainings;
- Promote unity in diversity and encourage Intra Christian programmes on peaceful co-existence;
- Preach peace, love and mutual tolerance from the pulpit;
- Show solidarity and love by resourcing and providing humanitarian assistance to victims of ethno-religious conflicts;
- Advocate against negative and provocative utterances that are recipes for violence in communities;
- Create peace committees within our various church denominations;
- Work in collaboration with, and embark on information sharing with the three PROCMURA Area Committees in Nigeria;
- Provide quarterly updates to the PROCMURA Central office on our initiatives toward preventing and mitigating ethno-religious conflicts.



CORRESPONDINGLY WE WOULD LIKE TO:

- Recognise all efforts made by different agencies in conflict prevention and peace building in Nigeria;
- Appreciate the PROCMURA Nigeria North Area Committee for hosting us and for their kind gesture and hospitality;
- Commend the PROCMURA Central Office for a well organised and educative seasonal school;
- Acknowledge the significant financial support from Mission 21, for the PROCMURA Seasonal School in Jos Nigeria, and urge them to consider sponsoring a phase two of the seasonal school for follow up;
- Call upon members of different Religions, Traditions and Ethnicity, Traditional Authorities, the Media, Civil Society Agencies and the Nigerian Government to support the efforts of one another in conflict prevention, peace building and peaceful coexistence among the people;
- Thank God for His guidance and protection throughout the seasonal school. We, religious leaders have adopted this commitment to work together continuously with guidance from PROCMURA to help prevent and manage Ethno-religious conflicts in Nigeria, promote religious tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and advocate for justice, human rights and right practices in our societies.

Statement prepared by Participants from the following church denominations:

1. **Anglican**
2. **Methodist**
3. **EYN**
4. **Presbyterian**
5. **Baptist**
6. **ECWA**
7. **Pentecostal Churches.**

ATTESTED/WITNESSED BY:

1. Ms. Joy Wandabwa, PROCMURA Team Leader - Finance and Administration
2. Rev. Dr. Salli Effungani, PROCMURA Programme Officer
3. Rev. Dr. Shola Olatunbosun Vice Chairperson, Nigeria North Area Committee
4. Dr. Joseph Yakubu, Mission 21 Nigeria Country Representative
5. Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah, PROCMURA's Consultant

PLACE: JOS, NIGERIA

DATE: NOVEMBER 28TH, 2019