



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



**PROCURA SEASONAL SCHOOL
EDITION 2,
JOS, NIGERIA.**

14th - 18th NOVEMBER, 2021

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

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We, forty-six (46) Christian and Muslim leaders from various Christian denominations and Muslim communities representing different states in Nigeria, gathered in Jos, Plateau State from the 14th to the 18th November 2021 under the auspices of the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA), for the PROCMURA SEASONAL SCHOOL Edition 2, on “the Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing/ Managing Ethno-Religious Conflicts For Peace and Development in Africa”, have had in-depth analysis from experts on the following topics:

- A detailed analysis of Nigeria seasonal school edition 1
- Implications of Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict in Nigeria: The Case of Southern Kaduna;
- The Effects of Ethno-religious Conflicts on Women and Youth in Nigeria;
- An Islamic Approach to Conflict Prevention and Peace building;
- A Biblical Approach to Conflict Prevention and Peace building;
- The Role of Religious Leaders in Conflict Prevention and Peace building;
- Understanding Conflict, Violence, and Religious Peace building approaches;
- Merging Religious Peace Building Approaches with Conventional Approaches.

Having analysed and discussed the above, we do hereby acknowledge that:

- There is growing religious intolerance and suspicion among and between people of various ethnic and religious affiliations;
- Religion and ethnicity are strong makers of identity across various spheres of life including politics;
- Poverty across the country is making life difficult for average Nigeria, thus constituting a threat to peace;
- Corruption, lack of accountability, and transparency still constitute a serious impediment to growth and development;
- The conduct of some Religious leaders/preachers undermine the peace and security in the country;
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps are still heavily populated by vulnerable groups of women and children;
- The failure of the mass media to adhere to the professional ethics and code of conduct in reporting religious matters has sometimes fueled violent conflicts in the country;

Having reflected on the peculiar situation of our country Nigeria in regards to Ethno-religious conflict and violent conflicts in general while taking into account what is happening in other parts of Africa and the world at large;

Conscious that we Christian and Muslim religious leaders together have a strategic role in ending Ethno-religious conflicts in Nigeria;

Well informed and trained on Conflict Prevention and Religious Peace building;

Having established; interreligious community peace networks;

WE the Religious Leaders do hereby pledge and reaffirm our willingness, determination, and commitment to remain in solidarity with one another and collaborate with the governments of Nigeria to work tirelessly for the promotion of peaceful co-existence among Christians and Muslims in a bid to end ethno-religious conflicts and other violent conflicts in Northern Nigeria and other parts of the country.

We do hereby commit ourselves to:

- Raise awareness and enlighten communities on the ills of Ethno-religious conflicts;
- Encourage and promote peaceful co-existence among Christians and Muslims in the communities;
- Fight against extremism and religious radicalisation through the promotion of cohesive societies;
- Preach peace, love, and mutual tolerance from the pulpit and in the mosques;
- Reach out to people in the communities with the message of peace through the newly established community interreligious peace networks;
- 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;
- 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;
- Work with PROCMURA in the prevention and mitigation of violent conflict in Nigeria;

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- We express our gratitude to the PROCMURA Central Office for organising the seasonal school edition 2;
- Our thanks go to the three (3) Nigeria Area Committees of PROCMURA and the Area Advisers for coordinating the seasonal school;
- Gratitude also to Dr. Joseph Yakubu; Mission 21 Nigeria Country Director for collaborating with the Area Advisers in coordinating the programme;
- We very sincerely acknowledge the efforts of the facilitators during this programme;

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.

Done, at Jos.....

Statement prepared by Participants:

Members of statement drafting Committee.

1. Barr. Sheikh Omar Faruk
2. Rev. Dr. Fola Lateju (Chairman)
3. Hon. Mohammed Sani Mudi
4. Dr. Dauda Abubakar
5. Rev. Dr. John Hassan