



# COMMUNIQUE



**INTER-RELIGIOUS SEASONAL SCHOOL ON THE PREVENTION/  
COUNTERING OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND CONFLICTS IN THE  
GREATER SAHEL REGION AND ITS SURROUNDINGS FOR SUSTAINABLE  
PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT**

We, Christian and Muslim religious leaders from the Greater Sahel region and its surrounding (9) countries of Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, Chad and Togo;

Having at the invitation of PROCMURA gathered at Hotel LA BASE 228 in Agoe Nyive, Lome Togo from the 10th to 13th May, 2022 for a PROCMURA Seasonal School on the Prevention/Countering of Violent Extremism and Conflicts in the Greater Sahel Region and its surroundings for Sustainable Peace and Development;

Having been vigorously taken through the following topics :

- An overview of Violent Conflict in the Sahel Region;
- Contextual Analysis of violent extremism in the Sahel region and the vulnerability of neighboring countries;
- Preventing/Countering violent extremism and conflict in the greater Sahel region and its environs for sustainable peace and development in the African continent;
- Conflict prevention/Peacebuilding Strategies;
- Promotion of good and inclusive governance: A strategy for resilience and security for preventing violent extremism a case study of Ghana;
- The role of religious leaders in enhancing social cohesion for conflict prevention/ management reconciliation and peacebuilding: Christian and Muslim perspectives;

Having carefully interacted and reflected on the various presentations and worked in discussion groups where we had in-depth analyses and reflections, enriched by concrete examples from some of the affected countries that are in attendance in the Seasonal School;

We do hereby state that we are:

Very concerned about the rise of violent extremism and conflicts which for several years have exacerbated and caused the loss of thousands of human lives in the Greater Sahel region;

Conscious of the fact that, Peace and Peaceful coexistence is an integral part of PROCMURA 's Vision of: "A continent where Christian and Muslim communities in spite of their differences , work together for justice , peace and reconciliation towards the holistic development of the human family."

Aware of the fact that, Violent Extremism which may have emerged as a result of radicalization is spreading fast and developing into violent conflicts in the Greater Sahel region and its surroundings, and that it continues to threaten peace, security and sustainable development around the African continent.

Deeply worried about negative solidarity, the politicisation of religion and the religionisation of politics, which often lead to an increase in acts of violence perpetrated by extremists groups that claim to belong to our one religion or the other; ;

More conscious that despite joint efforts by groups associated with PROCMURA and many others in some of the affected countries, much more work needs to be done to curb radicalization and violent extremism.

Better placed and understand more that: as religious leaders we must do all that we can to manage of conflicts and make concerted efforts to counter violent extremism, which is a menace in the region.

In line with our added discoveries of the gravity of the situation that the seasonal school has helped to bring to the fore We do hereby:

Pledge and reaffirm our Commitment and determination to stand together and work towards prevention of conflict, radicalization and violent extremism for the promotion of peace and development as without peace there can be no development and without development no peace.

On account of this resolve, we as religious leaders, from the two largest religions (Christianity and Islam) in Africa and representing millions of followers,

Make the following commitments:

- To promote peace and social cohesion in our communities
- To use different strategies towards the prevention of violent extremism, radicalization and violent conflicts;
- To initiate educational programmes and conduct awareness raising campaigns against radicalization and violent extremism in the community to promote peace and security;
- To develop counter narrative messages to demystify retrogressive statements that propagate and encourage

cryogenic ideologies marked by religious radicalization and extremism;

- Be forward-looking, pragmatic and courageous at all times in tackling the challenges
- Be vigilant and impartial in our work and refrain from collaborating with parties that will promote conflict and instrumentalise the use of religion .

WE MAKE A SOLEMN APPEAL TO ALL RELIGIOUS LEADERS, OUR GOVERNMENTS, THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) AND ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THE PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM:

- To put in all efforts in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in their development agenda;
- Incorporate early warning mechanisms to detect emerging trends and issues with the objective of developing effective strategies for Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Security in the Sahel region.
- Promote good governance, political stability, economic growth and sustainable development.

Call upon on religious leaders to take up an active role in peace building and promotion of social cohesion at community levels on their respective scriptures (the Bible, Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet).

Encourage religious leaders and all people of good will to work in synergy, patience, perseverance and endurance and discourage acts that tend to promote violent conflict and radicalization.

Condole and Stand in solidarity with the government and people of Togo that experienced a terrorist attack in Kpinkankandi in the northern part of Togo during the proceedings of this Seasonal School.

We express our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families, of the law enforcement and security officers who lost their lives in the line of duty, and pray for the speedy recovery those that were injured during the violent encounter.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We express our gratitude to the Government of Togo, the Prefect, traditional chiefs, religious leaders and the Togolese people for hosting us in their country and according us a warm reception and hospitality during our stay in Lomé; Gratitude goes to the Area Committee of PROCMURA in Togo (PRICA/TOGO) for having accepted to host this inter-religious seasonal school and indeed to the whole Religious Community of TOGO;

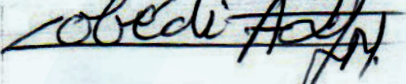
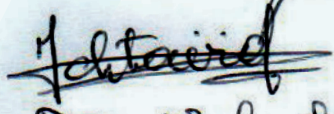
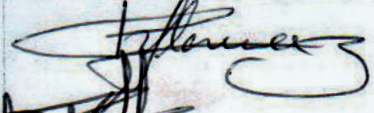
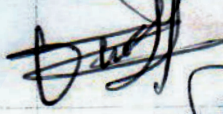
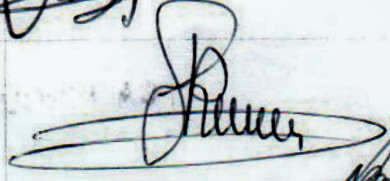

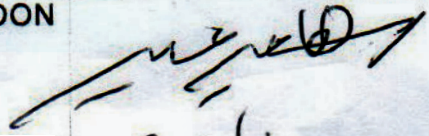
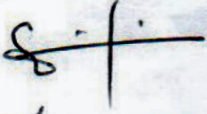
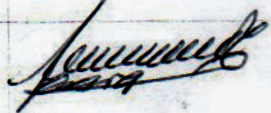

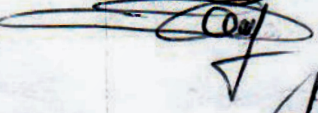
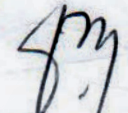
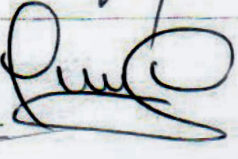


Special gratitude goes to the PROCMURA Consultant Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah for the Wealth of knowledge he bestowed upon us and to all the speakers who enriched us with knowledge and skills on the Prevention and Fight against Violent Extremism.

We express our Appreciation to the General Adviser of PROCMURA and all his staff at the Central office in Nairobi, Kenya and all partners who assisted PROCMURA in one way or the other to make, Seasonal School successful.

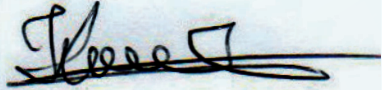
Above All, Glory and Honour go to the Almighty God for his Grace, Providence and for the Protection he has accorded to all of us.

Done in Lomé, TOGO, on 12th May 2022

# SIGNATAIRES

<p><b>BENIN</b></p>	<p>Rev Prof ALAGBADA Ibiladé Nicodème</p> <p>Imam LIGALI</p>	  <p>PO d<sup>2</sup> chafaraka Taira</p>
<p><b>BURKINA FASO</b></p>	<p>Dr COMPAORE Florence</p> <p>El hadj Oumarou DICKO</p>	 
<p><b>CAMEROUN</b></p>	<p>GOYEK Robert</p> <p>NJOYA Abdelaziz</p>	 
<p><b>GHANA</b></p>	<p>Imam Dr HARUNA ZAGOON SAYEED</p> <p>Rt. Rev Dr. Nathan IDDRISSU SAMWINI</p>	 
<p><b>GUINEE</b></p>	<p>Fr. FRANCOIS TOUNKARA</p> <p>El hadj Mohamed Aly SOUMAY</p>	 
<p><b>MALI</b></p>	<p>Pasteur APADOU Kodjo</p> <p>Soulemane FRANTAO</p>	 
<p><b>SENEGAL</b></p>	<p>Rokhaya THIAM</p> <p>Adama FAYE</p>	 
<p><b>TCHAD</b></p>	<p>DONGOS Victor</p> <p>Abdadayim Ousman</p> <p>Abdoulaye</p>	

## SIGNATAIRES

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<b>PRICA/PROCMURA</b>	<b>Rév Dr Komi ADRAKE</b>	