



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



GAROUA COMMUNIQUÉ

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR CHRISTIAN AND
MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LEADERS ON CONFLICT
PREVENTION FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN
CAMEROON**

Garoua, Cameroon

27– 31 July 2015

We, Christian and Muslim religious leaders from Chad, the Central African Republic and Cameroon, on the initiative of the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) in collaboration with the Council of Protestant Churches of Cameroon (CPCC) and PROCMURA Area Committee in Cameroon;

Having participated in the “National Conference for Christian and Muslim Religious Leaders on Conflict Prevention for Peace and Development in Cameroon”, held in Bénoué Hotel, Garoua, from 27th to 31st July 2015;

After deliberating on the following sub themes:

- ✓ Why radicalisation and extremism is on the rise in Africa;
- ✓ Identifying tendencies of growing extremism in Cameroon and some parts of Africa in which religion is implicated;
- ✓ The understanding of religious leaders on the phenomenon of extremism and what can be done to curb it;
- ✓ Acknowledging the complexity in conflict prevention and what needs to be done;
- ✓ What religious leaders can and should do to limit the spread of radicalisation and religious extremism;

CONSCIOUS of the state of Christian-Muslim relations in our respective countries and the collaborative efforts made by Christians and Muslims towards conflict prevention, peace and development;

COGNISANT that religion and religious differences have often been negatively exploited for political, economic, social and personal gains resulting in conflicts that cause loss of human lives and destruction of property;

VERY CONCERNED about the growing violence in some countries of West and Central Africa and other regions caused by extremist groups;

HAVING UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED that as religious leaders, we must at all times be advocates of justice, peace and reconciliation for development, and that we must be living examples for our communities and the wider society;

REAFFIRM our commitment and determination to continue to be in solidarity with each other to prevent conflicts, maintain peace and sustainable development in Africa in general and in the regions of West and Central Africa in particular;

RESOLVE TO:

- ✓ Lead our respective communities by example
- ✓ Take responsibility to prevent violent conflicts and take measures to resolve them where they already exist in our respective countries;
- ✓ Conduct awareness raising campaigns within our religious communities and help them to promote positive religious tolerance for peace and peaceful coexistence;
- ✓ Work towards the establishment of national structures of Christian-Muslim relations and national platforms for advocacy with governments on issues of great concern in our respective countries;
- ✓ Intensify our efforts to work closely with various religious groups in our countries to support our respective governments to work towards the promotion of social justice, peace, religious tolerance and development.

CONSEQUENTLY,

- Knowing that the two sacred books (the Bible and the Qur'an) advocate peace and conflict prevention;
- Affirm in our capacity as religious leaders, our determination to do everything to avoid conflicts situations and practice peace and religious tolerance in fulfilment of the demands our respective religions;
- Call upon members of our respective religions to support the efforts of one another in conflict prevention, the promotion of peace in society and peaceful coexistence, and avoid negative tendencies that may cause violent conflicts.
- Appreciate the efforts of the governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria (among others) to neutralise all actions that sow seeds of insecurity and violent extremism in our states and endeavour to restore peace and security;
- Grateful to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Cameroon and the governor of the Northern Region of Cameroon, for facilitating our entry, stay and safety during the conference
- Finally and most importantly, we thank God for His guidance and protection during the conference.

We, religious leaders have adopted this communiqué and are committed to continuing to work together to prevent conflict, promote religious tolerance, peaceful coexistence, peace and development in our respective countries.

Done in Garoua, July 30, 2015

For participants.

- **Bishop Antoine Ntalou**, Archbishop of Garoua,
Representative of the Catholic Church in Cameroon

- **H.E Marafa Djafarou**, Imam of the Great Mosque of Central Garoua,
Representative of the Muslim Community of Cameroon

- **Very Rev. Robert GOYEK**,
President of the Council of Protestant Churches of Cameroon (CPCC)

Attested/Witnessed by:

- Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah, General Adviser of the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA)
- Rev. Dr. Simon Kossi DOSSOU, Representative of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)
- Rev. Pastor Franco-MBAYE BONDOI, Head of the delegation from the Central African Republic,
- Mr. Ibrahim Dinar ALNAZIF, Head of the delegation of Chad

