



MALAKAL COMMUNIQUÉ

We, Christian and Muslim Religious leaders from the Upper Nile State of South Sudan;

Having met at the South Sudan Hotel, Malakal, for a three-day (5th - 9th September 2012) conference organised by the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) under the auspices of the Sudan Council of Churches, Upper Nile Region;

Having spent very fruitful time of intensive teaching and workshop discussions under the leadership of the General Adviser of PROCMURA Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah on subjects related to the Conference theme “Capacity Building for Christian and Muslim leaders on Conflict Prevention and Peace Building for Development in South Sudan”, came to the recognition;

That as the newest nation in this planet we have challenges related to:

1. Acceptance of our ethnic plurality and religious diversity as enriching and not a cause for strife
2. Collectively working towards political and economic stability
3. Concerns that religious extremism which is experienced in some parts of Africa and countries that we share borders with are not exported, imported or spill over into our new country

4. Settling our brothers and sisters who have returned to their motherland having been exiled to different countries for several years as a result of the political instability that made many of them refugees in different countries

Aware that:

1. Peace and Development are interrelated and that where there is no peace there can be no development
2. The destiny of our new nation rests in the hands of God and that as religious leaders we have to pray for peace, work for peace and ensure that our actions depict peace
3. We come from different ethnic groups and have to collectively work to minimise and eventually eradicate negative ethnic particularity tendencies that militate against the unity of the peoples of South Sudan

We do hereby commit ourselves to:

1. Work together as Christian and Muslim religious leaders to assist the government of South Sudan in its peacemaking efforts, by preaching and advocating for peace in our various communities and religious organizations.
2. Avoid actions or inactions that will cause conflicts between Christians and Muslims as, for example, embarking on polemical preaching, public doctrinal and religious arguments and debates that tend to poison relations, or doing nothing to prevent such polemical preaching and unhelpful debates from happening
3. Collectively work towards addressing previous and emerging conflicts of any nature (political or ethnic) that is within our power to do so.
4. Ensure that we work towards the creation of a Christian and Muslim religious leaders' forum with the hope that such a forum will be empowered with knowledge and the financial means to attend to pertinent issues in Christian-Muslim relations

In order for us to live up to this commitment we:

Call on the Government of South Sudan to ensure that it lives up to the principles of being secular state where governments remain neutral on religious matters and play an advisory role.

While very appreciative of the pioneering role of PROCMURA in bringing Christian and Muslim religious leaders of the Upper Nile State to look at issues of peace and development, call on the organisation to continue to accompany us and provide the much needed expertise that would enable us to continue to work together as Christians and Muslims for the unity and peace of our land.

We thank the Almighty God for the opportunity to participate in this conference and pray for grace to live up to our commitment.

Malakal 8th September 2012

Dr. John Garang Hall

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM LEADERS ON
CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING FOR DEVELOPMENT
IN SOUTH SUDAN

DATE: 5TH - 8TH SEPTEMBER 2012

VENUE: SOUTH SUDAN HOTEL, MALAKAL

