

COMMUNIQUE ON THE CONFERENCE ON: 'FROM *CARITAS IN VERITATE* TO *AFRICAЕ MUNUS*. TODAY'S CHALLENGES FOR AFRICA IN THE LIGHT OF THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH'

KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, 9-13 SEPTEMBER 2012

1. Preamble

We, participants at the follow-up regional seminar on: 'From *Caritas in Veritate* to *Africae Munus*: Today's challenges for Africa in the light of the Social Doctrine of the Church', held in Kinshasa from 9-13 September, 2012, organised by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, in collaboration with the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (CENCO);

representing the AMECEA, ACEAC, ACERAC, Regional and National Justice and Peace Commissions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Universities and Research Centres, together with our partners from CRS, Missio, Misereor and Konrad Adenauer Foundation;

concerned about deepening the knowledge of the Social Doctrine of the Church (SDC) and living it in our today's Africa, enlightened by *Caritas in Veritate* and *Africae Munus*, deliberated on the themes of:

- Social Doctrine of the Church
- Economy and Development
- Politics and Good Governance
- Ecology and Social Justice and
- Peace and Reconciliation

2. Challenges

We identified the following economic, political, socio-cultural and security challenges:

2.1 Inadequate knowledge and skills on the Social Doctrine of the Church among the clergy, religious and laity;

2.2 Cultural and religious intolerance;

2.3 Failure to recognise and efficiently utilise available resources; and

2.4 Corruption, lack of political will, weak governance and leadership.

3. Strategies

In order to address these challenges, we agreed on the following strategies:

- 3.1 Increasing the ownership of the SDC among the faithful through simplification, translation into local languages, wider dissemination and integration into the curricula of schools, universities and other institutions of training and formation;
- 3.2 Greater orientation towards living the doctrine through accompaniment of politicians, professionals and entrepreneurs;
- 3.3 Revising the Catechesis to take into account the culture of the people (inculturation);
- 3.4 Increasing communication through using modern methods including social media, print and audio-visual methods;
- 3.5 Enhancing dialogue and promotion of reconciliation;
- 3.6 Developing the human resource capacity especially in the area of training of pastoral agents and leaders using existing institutions of training and formation and available expertise within the Church.

4. Resolutions

To implement these strategies, we resolve to:

- 4.1 Simplify, translate and widely disseminate the SDC;
- 4.2 Integrate the SDC into the curricula of Catholic Institutions and the catechesis programmes;
- 4.3 Vigorously integrate the SDC into civic and voter education;
- 4.4 Strengthen existing Parliamentary Liaison Offices (PLO) and establish them where they do not exist;
- 4.5 Form Catholic laity in SDC and encourage them to engage more actively in political and public life;
- 4.6 Develop and implement programmes based on the SDC to promote interaction of different cultures for example through drama and sports;
- 4.7 Use social media, print and audio-visuals to popularise the SDC;

4.8 Encourage ecclesial solidarity, ecumenism, interreligious dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflicts based on SDC;

4.9 Develop and provide customised training on SDC; and

4.10 Promote family values and defend the family institution as a way of achieving socio-cultural integration.

We are grateful to all our benefactors for giving us the opportunity to hold this Seminar and call upon all people of good will to support the deepening of knowledge, populisation and the practice of the values enshrined in the SDC.

5. Conclusion

Towards realising these recommendations, we shall intensify our efforts to acquire the necessary human, financial and material resources using strategies for self reliance and commit ourselves to the good stewardship of resources entrusted to us.

We offer our commitments and resolutions to the loving heart of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Mother.

May the almighty God bless our efforts.

Dated in Kinshasa on this 12th Day of September, 2012.