

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SEMINAR ON CARITAS IN VERITATE ORGANIZED AT WINDHOEL FROM 17-21 DECEMBER 2012.

I. Preamble

We, participants of the Follow Up seminar on *Caritas in Veritate* from Inter Regional Meeting of the Bishops of Southern Africa (IMBISA), namely Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Lesotho, as well as representatives and speakers from Mauritius, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Tanzania, Burundi, Senegal, Benin, Ghana, and SECAM Secretariat, together with Donors (Misereor, World Vision International) held in Windhoek from 17-21 December 2012, organized by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in collaboration with the Justice and Peace Commission of the Namibian Catholic Bishops' Conference (NCBC) on the theme **“Africa, take heart, rise, He is calling” (Mk 10:45) from *Caritas in Veritate to Africae Munus: Today’s challenges for Africa in the light of the Social Doctrine of the Church***, hereby express our profound gratitude to God and the sponsors for the success of this momentous event.

We are most grateful to the resources persons and presenters for the enlightenment they provided on the variety of important issues concerning the economy and development; politics and good governance; ecology and social justice and peace and reconciliation, and the role of the Social Doctrine of the Church (SDC).

The presentation and discussions have greatly awakened our consciences and reinforced our deepest concerns over the harrowing situations of violence, conflict, abuses of human rights, personal security and livelihoods and the challenges of democratic governance prevalent on the continent. We have also become acutely aware of the way in which globalization is increasing poverty and inequalities and the devastation of our environment because of the inconsiderate behaviour of investors and the neglect of our governments.

We addressed three key questions namely:

1. What challenges confront disseminating knowledge of the SDC, and by what strategies and solutions can they be overcome?
2. To what extent can the SDC influence the formation of political (public) leaders, the practice of good governance including the holding of credible elections, and the pursuit of a first social order?
3. How can the SDC be used as an instrument to promote social justice, integral human development, the protection of life and the environment, sustainable peace and reconciliation?

In response to these questions, and recognizing the prophetic role of the Church and the social doctrine, in particular *Caritas in Veritate* and *Africae Munus*, we make the following resolutions:

II. Resolutions

To

1. promote access to and understanding of the SDC among laity and young people in public schools and catholic universities, seminaries, the religious and priests,
2. develop and introduce simplified versions and other materials on the Social Doctrine of the Church and render them into local languages to be more widely accessible,
3. institute programmes of dissemination of the principles of the principles of the SDC aimed at target groups and encourage commitment of Church leadership to the implementation of these programmes,
4. establish roles to be played by groups in the Church in the democratic process of governance and encourage them through training and participation to monitor and influence policies, processes and outcomes of governance,
5. promote education towards civic responsibilities based on the SDC, making use of sermons and pastoral letters,
6. develop solidarity among Catholics, politicians, business and other highly-placed public officials through the use of Small Christian Communities and thereby form their consciences towards respecting the common good,
7. promote a strong regional alliance of countries within the sub-region towards advocacy for a just and responsible management of conflict situations and the promotion of initiatives for peace, and finally
8. carry out Action Research to expose and contribute to resolving abuses of the rights of communities and the environment, as well as sensitize and empower civil societies, organizations, groups and individuals to protect the interests of the people.

III. Recommendations

In view of these resolutions we recommend that:

1. Episcopal conferences should initiate processes to simplify and disseminate the SDC among the laity and in catholic institutions and seminaries,

2. Justice and Peace commissions should engage organizations and groups within the Church in actively studying and disseminating the values and principles of the SDC and especially *Africae Munus* in the context of the current situation and challenges of the Church and society,
3. Parliamentary Liaison Offices should intensify their efforts of exposing those who hold political office to the richness of the SDC in contributing to integral human development,
4. Episcopal Conferences and Justice and Peace commissions should work more aggressively, and in collaboration, with other stakeholders, towards frameworks and mechanisms for identifying flash-points of conflict and helping to resolve them when they occur,
5. the Church in general should give greater attention to issues of environmental destruction and deprivation of the livelihoods of affected populations, and finally
6. the Church should demonstrate greater courage in the face of political and other forms of persecution, trusting in the power of their faith.

We pray that God may bless these intensions and that they may be made manifest by the intercession of our Holy Mother the Virgin Mary and the Queen of Africa.

Made at Arebbusch, Windhoek on this twentieth day of December, 2012.

Signed:

Rt. Rev. Lucio MUANDULA, Bishop and Vice President of IMBISA

Signed:

Most Rev. Liborius NASHENDA, Archbishop of Windhoek and President of NCBC