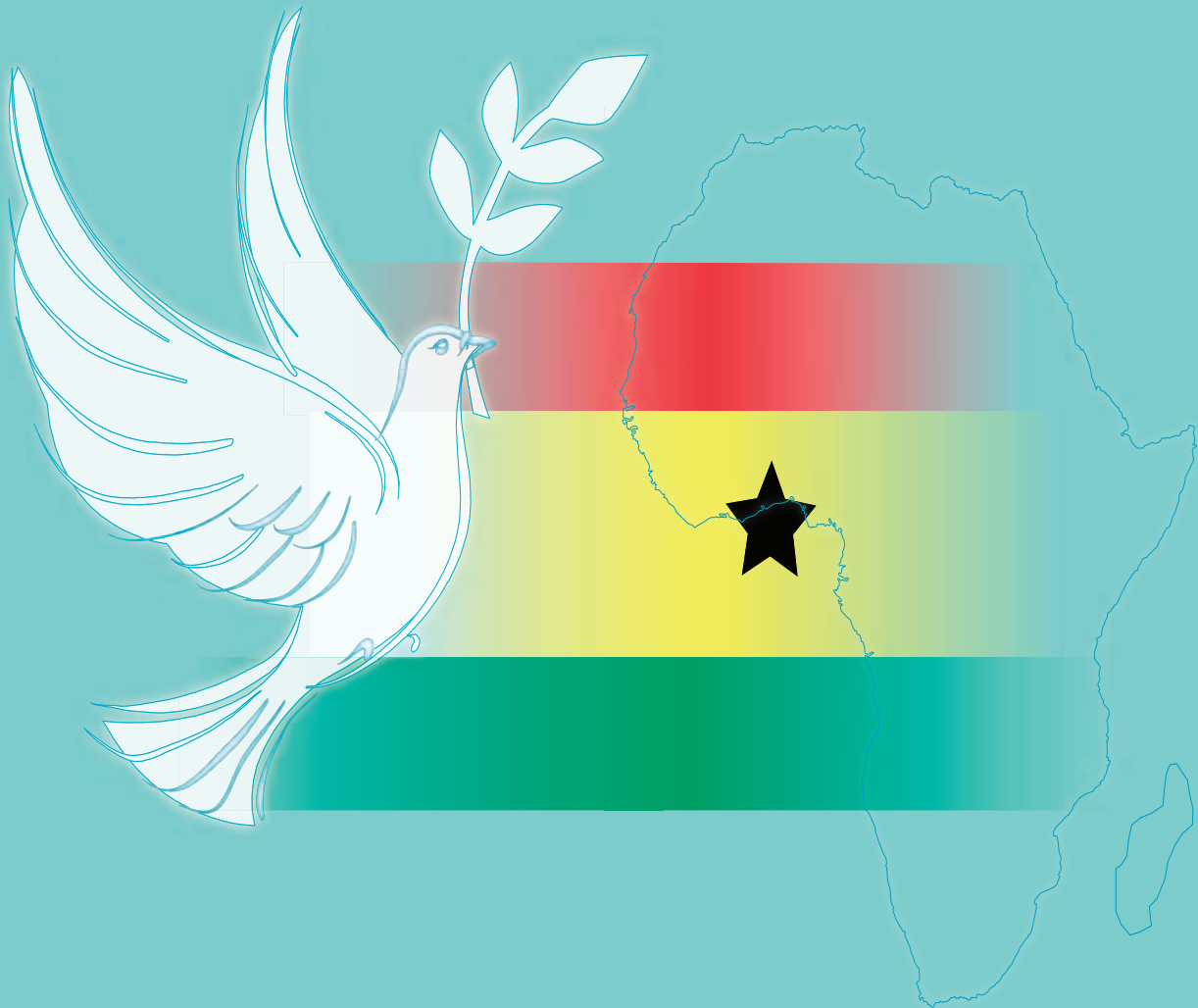




PROGRAMME FOR CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS IN AFRICA
PROGRAMME DES RELATIONS ISLAMO-CHRETIENNES EN AFRIQUE



ACCRA -COMMUNIQUÉ



Conference on Religion, Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Reconciliation
Conférence sur la Religion, la Prévention des Conflits, le Rétablissement de la Paix et la Réconciliation

ACCRA ,GHANA 20 -24 JULY / JUILLET

THE ACCRA COMMUNIQUÉ

We, 60 Christian and Muslim religious leaders from ten (10) West African States that include Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Togo met in Accra, Ghana under the auspices of the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) on the theme: "Religion and Prevention of Conflict, Peace Building and Reconciliation" at the M-Plaza Hotel, from July 20-24, 2009.

HAVING deliberated on such issues as: Religious Leaders as Agents of Peace, peace between the religions as a prerequisite for religious leaders to promote peace within the wider society, negative religious expansionist policies, the politicization of religion, globalization / internationalization of conflicts, negative solidarity, the challenge of translating good precepts in religion into good practice in everyday life, causes of conflicts, and advocacy for peace by example;

HAVING received Case Studies on Christians and Muslims Collaboration for Peace from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte D'Ivoire, and Nigeria;

AWARE that religion and religious differences have always been exploited for political, economic, communal and personal interest which have caused the deaths of thousands of our brothers and sisters and the destruction of properties;

VERY CONCERNED at the violent confrontations in our individual countries carried out by some of our followers;

RECOGNIZING that there are some positive improvements in Christian and Muslim Collaboration for Justice, Peace and Reconciliation;

UNDERSTANDING and ACCEPTING that as Religious Leaders we must at all times be Agents of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation and must live by example;

Reconciliation in the West African region in Particular and Africa in general;

ACCORDINGLY, as Religious Leaders coming from the two major Religions in the West African region, and representing millions of persons of faith,

DO HEREBY RESOLVE and reaffirm our willingness and determination to continue to remain in solidarity with each other in the furtherance and sustainability of Peace, Justice, Healing and

RESOLVE as follows:

- That we would lead by example and take responsibility to Promote Peace, Justice and Reconciliation in our region;
- That we would embark on a campaign to create awareness and sensitization within the religious communities to promote positive religious tolerance for peace and peaceful co-existence;
- That we would respect and appreciate each other's religious values, beliefs and practices;
- That we would collectively engage national governments, the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and along with our counterparts in the various regions of Africa, the African Union (AU) to urge for responsible governance and democracy

CALL ON RELIGIOUS LEADERS

- We call on all Religious Leaders to continue to be Prophetic and proactive at all times without fear or favour;
- We call on religious leaders to be politically impartial and refrain from partisan politics so as to ensure that we play effective roles as Agents of Peace Justice and Reconciliation;
- We call on the followers of our respective religions to complement each others efforts for peace in society and peaceful co-existence among themselves and avoid negative tendencies which has the propensity for conflicts;
- As both Holy Books (the Bible and Qur'an) place emphasis on Peace, that as religious leaders we practice Peace in fulfillment of the tenets of our respective religions.

CALL ON GOVERNMENT

- We call on Governments and Political leaders in the Sub-Region to practice good and responsible governance and guarantee peaceful transitions from one duly elected government to the other;
- We appreciate and thank those governments that have created an enabling environment for dialogue with religious leaders, and call on others to create the same;
- We call on Governments to ensure that Child and Drug trafficking be eradicated within the Sub-Region;

We as Religious Leaders have adopted the above and have resolved to continue to work together to promote positive religious tolerance and peaceful co-existence, addressing Peace, Justice, Healing and Reconciliation.

Done in ACCRA, Ghana this 24th Day of July 2009.

Signed by all Participants from:

BURKINA FASO, COTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, LIBERIA, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE,
THE GAMBIA, The Republic of BENIN, AND TOGO

Attested by:

Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA), All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), Fellowship of Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA), World Council of Churches (WCC)