



**STATEMENT BY CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LEADERS ON PEACE BUILDING
IN THE HORN OF AFRICA
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
30TH – 31ST JULY 2009**

We, the religious leaders representing the Christian and Muslim faiths from the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) countries meeting in Addis Ababa on 30th - 31st July 2009, to deliberate on Peace Building, Healing and Reconciliation in the Horn of Africa;

Acknowledging the mercies of the Almighty God on us as we spent time together, sharing our thoughts with each other and developing bonds amongst us;

Expressing heartfelt thanks to the Ethiopian Government and the African Union (AU) and appreciation to the Ethiopian Interfaith Platform and His Holiness the Patriarch Abuna Paulos for hosting us; the African Council of Religious Leaders —*Religions for Peace* (ACRL—*Religions for Peace*), and the All African Conference of Churches (AACC) for convening the meeting;

Having reflected on a wide range of issues relating to the peace, security and stability in the Horn of Africa within the context of inter-faith relations in the region for the past two days;

Celebrating our African identity, unity in diversity and our journey in the African history of liberation, restoration of justice and human dignity;

Deeply concerned about the endemic conflicts and persistent insecurity in the region, especially in Somalia, Sudan and Northern Uganda, caused or aggravated by, economic stagnation and poverty, mistrust and suspicion, massive violation of human rights and other policies of exclusion and marginalization;

Gravely troubled about the humanitarian and social consequences of the crises;

Bearing in mind the sub-human and abhorring conditions under which many of our people in the Horn of Africa live, either in the internally displaced persons camps or refugee camps;

Recognizing that the internal conflicts have a regional impact that could adversely affect the peace and security in the whole region and beyond;

Seeking to deepen our understanding and analysis of the root causes and agents of conflicts in the region;

Convinced of the fact that religious leaders have a role and mandate in contributing towards peace and reconciliation process in the region;

We, the Christian and Muslim leaders together with the institutions we represent do hereby commit ourselves to undertake, a series of actions to bring fruition to the work that we have done in the last two days. In this regard, we have collectively resolved to:-

- 1 Sustain and intensify our prayers for peace in the Horn of Africa;
- 2 Actively continue engaging in sincere Interfaith-dialogue, trust building and collaboration for peace in each of our countries and in the region;
- 3 Remain committed to the cause of peace, Justice, healing, and reconciliation in the Horn of Africa and seek to do everything within our capacity to reduce further escalation of violent conflict in the region;
- 4 Facilitate spiritual renewal by instilling and imparting positive values, within our families, mosques, churches, schools and Communities;
- 5 Build stronger networks between the religious leaders in the Horn of Africa to enhance peace and security in the region;
- 6 Establish linkages with Africa Union (AU) and Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD);
- 7 Engage in value based holistic civic education
- 8 Initiate coordinated advocacy and lobby strategies for peace in the region;
- 9 Engage in humanitarian assistance to the affected population in the region;
- 10 Convene a wider regional peace conference for religious leaders from the Horn of Africa by December 2009.

Finally, with the help of the Almighty God and inspiration from our people, we make a joint and firm Commitment towards the journey of building peace in the Horn of Africa and invite all the people of goodwill, the Governments of the region and other stakeholders to join us.

Signed by the following religious leaders/Institutions:

Ethiopia

1. His Holiness Abune Paulos I
2. H.E. Abune Berhaneyessus Suraphiel
3. H.E. Sheikh Mohamed Ibrahim
4. H.E. Sheikh Mohamed Derssa
5. H.E. Aba Libankirstos Mathewos

Djibouti

1. Sheikh Ali Ibrahim Waiss
2. Sheikh Hassan Mohamed Said

Kenya

1. Sheikh Adan Wachu
2. Dr. Agnes Abuom

Sudan

1. Most Reverend Canon Daniel Deng Bul

Uganda

1. H.E. Sheikh Shaban Mubajje
2. His Grace Bishop Stanely Ntagali

Somalia

1. Mrs. Sowhore Abdi
2. Sheikh Mahdi Abdille

**Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in
the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA)**

1. Rev. Fred Nyabera

All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)

1. Rev. Dr. Andre Karamaga

**The African Council of Religious Leader (ACRL—
Religions for Peace)**

1. H.E. Sheikh Shaban Mubajje
2. Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali
3. Dr. Agnes Abuom

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

July 31st, 2009