

RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S ROLE IN PUBLIC LIFE IN AFRICA

We, the members of Justice and Peace Commissions of 20 Episcopal Conferences in Africa; having met on the theme *The Catholic Church's Role in Public life in Africa*, under the auspices of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) in collaboration with the Justice and Peace Department and the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference from October 12 to 16, 2008, at the Lakeview Airport Lodge in Johannesburg, South Africa;

Being cognizant of our responsibility to make the voice of the Church relevant and credible in public life while promoting dialogue with governments, parliaments, political parties and civil societies; hereby resolve that:

1. In collaboration with our various National Episcopal Conferences, we would work towards the establishment of Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Offices (CPLOs) in our respective countries across Africa where they do not already exist. The necessity for this derives from the relevance of CPLOs in fostering and sustaining the service of the common good through facilitating good governance.
2. Together, we shall work to strengthen existing CPLOs through capacity building, resource mobilization and effective networking among National Conferences, Regional Conferences and at the Continental level with the aim of achieving the ultimate objectives of CPLOs. Each National Conference and Regional Conference should take responsibility and Commitment towards the promotion of CPLOs and Parliamentary Chaplaincies.
3. Each CPLO should work in synergy with the existing Church structures in their countries in order to maximize their potential.
4. We shall assist SECAM Secretariat to take urgent steps to foster and sustain effective communication among the various National and Regional Conferences and that the respective Conferences should make appropriate information and data available to SECAM in order to realize this objective.
5. We shall assist SECAM Secretariat to take urgent steps to accelerate action in the process of accreditation with the African Union Commission, while Regional Conferences should assume responsibility for accreditation with Regional Organizations and Parliaments.
6. We shall assist SECAM Secretariat to facilitate the replication of this workshop at both Regional and National Levels with the objective of promoting the capacity at every level for the effective implementation of CPLOs.
7. We shall assist SECAM Secretariat to expedite action on the creation of an African Advisory Council on Justice, Development, Peace and Good Governance and in this way ensure effective follow-up and coordination of the programmes of the Justice and Peace Commissions in the Continent.
8. Each Participant at this workshop should take steps to promote and ensure a follow-up on the outcome there from.

*Dated this day October 15, 2008
Lakeview Airport Lodge
Johannesburg
Republic of South Africa*