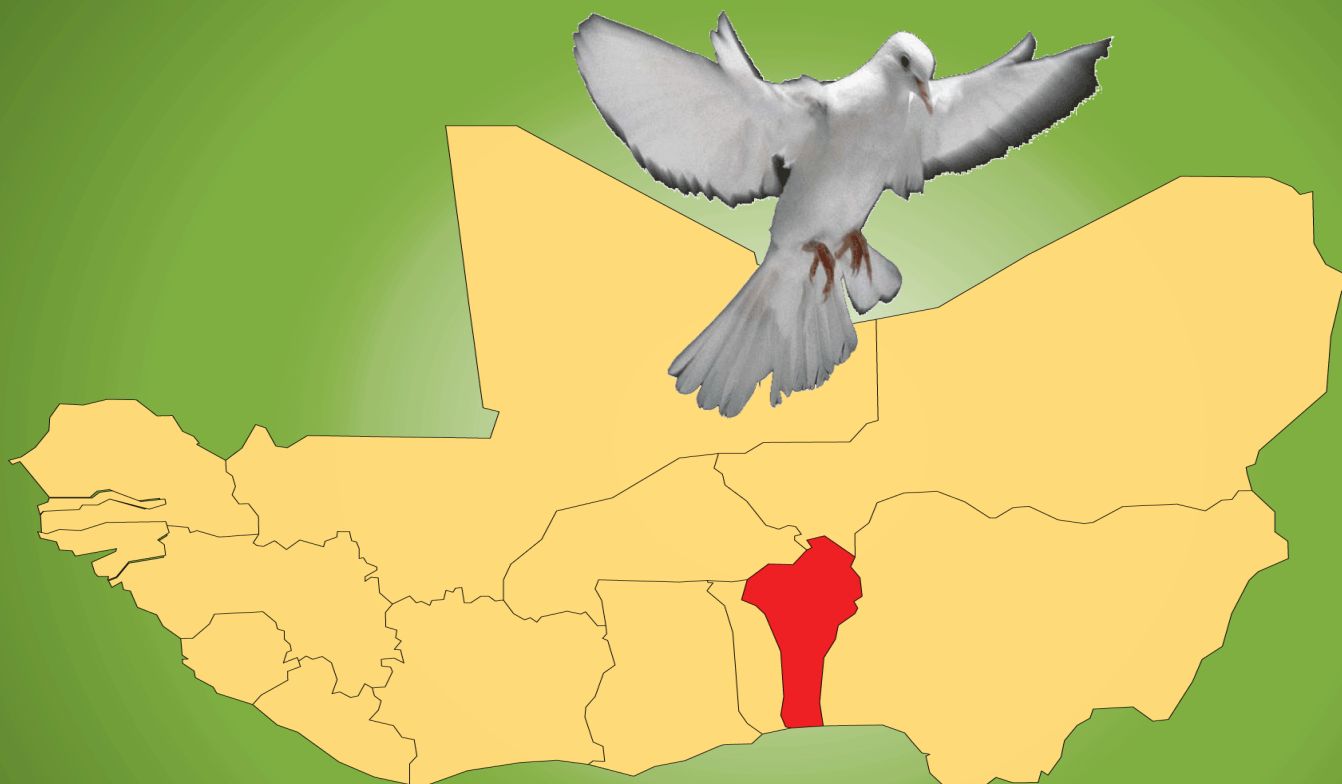




Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa
Programme des Relations Islamo-Chrétiennes en Afrique



BENIN COMMUNIQUE



**CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LEADERS CONFERENCE
ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LEADERS
CONFERENCE ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN**

We, Christian and Muslim leaders in Benin, on the invitation of the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) held a conference on the theme '*Christians and Muslims together for Peace and Development*' at the *Centre Chrétien d'Accueil et de Formation* (CCAF) in Benin, on the 26th and 27th of July 2010.

HAVING had informed discussions facilitated by experts on 'Conflict prevention, peace and development', 'Challenges and Hopes for Peace and Development: The Role of Christian and Muslim leaders', 'Peace and Development: Biblical and Qu'ranic Perspectives';

HAVING received and discussed reports of various workshops focusing on actions to implement the cooperation for peace and peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims;

AWARE that religion and religious differences can be exploited for political, economic, social and personal gain leading to mistrust, fraud and a departure from the teachings of our respective faiths,

VERY CONCERNED about the religio-political climate in some parts of the West Africa sub-region;

RECOGNISING that PROCMURA over the years has stimulated improvements in the collaboration between Christians and Muslims for peace and development as well as attending to various social issues;

HAVING UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED that as Christian and Muslim leaders, we must at all times be agents of justice, peace and development and set an example for others through our behaviour at this moment when our nation celebrates its fiftieth anniversary of independence;

RESOLVE and **REAFFIRM** our commitment and determination to continue to be united to maintain lasting peace, justice, healing and reconciliation of our dear nation Benin and work with all stakeholders in our ECOWAS region and Africa in general to achieve the same.

Commit ourselves as Christian and Muslim leaders to:

- **Lead** by example and take responsibility for our actions
- **Conduct** awareness campaigns and education in our communities and help promote tolerance and affirmative action for peace and peaceful coexistence
- **Promote** respect and appreciate religious values, beliefs and practices of each other;
- **Engage** our government and other state functionaries to promote responsible and democratic governance.

Accordingly, we call:

- On all religious leaders to continue to be prophetic and proactive in their quest for peace;
- On all religious leaders to adopt a non-partisan position when collaborating with political activists for justice, peace and development.
- On Christian and Muslim leaders to adopt peaceable and ethical methods of recommending their faith to others and desist from provocative preaching that may disturb the peace we treasure.
- On our government to work with us to eradicate child trafficking and drug abuse.



Adopted: The Conference