



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



OUAGADOUGOU COMMUNIQUÉ

CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM LEADERS CONFERENCE

We, Christian and Muslim Religious Leaders of Burkina Faso, at the invitation of the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) had a two-day conference (14 and 15 March 2011) at the conference room of the Development Office of the Churches (ODE). The conference which was the first of its kind in Burkina Faso attracted the participation of 40 Christian and Muslim leaders.

HAVING deliberated on the main theme of the conference “*Cooperation between Christian and Muslim leaders for Peace and Development in Burkina Faso*” and a broader discussion on „*Strengthening relations between Christians and Muslims for sustainable peace and development in the African continent*’ observed:

1. That relations between Christians and Muslims in Burkina Faso are very cordial due to the social and legendary practice of respect and sharing customary fond-making to amuse one another.
2. That the cordiality we experience and the religious tolerance that appear to be innate and the norm in Burkinabe society can be disturbed by extreme religious ideas that may infiltrate the country.
3. That the political situation in the West African sub region could use religion as a rallying point as is experienced in some parts of the continent.

HAVING UNDERSTOOD and appreciated PROCMURA’s foresight and proactive way of addressing issues of complex nature based on its pioneering work on Christian-Muslim relations in the African continent;

CONSIDÉRING the fact that the peace and peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims which we in Burkina enjoy cannot be taken for granted, but worked on to ensure that it becomes the norm and not the exception:

Commit ourselves to:

1. **Work** together to ensure that we **maintain** and **strengthen** relations between communities.
2. **ENCOURAGE** cohesion in what we do as Christians and Muslims, so as inculcate the spirit of shared values for peace and development
3. **CONDUCT** intra-religious and inter-religious meetings/to educate ourselves and our membership on the importance of living with religious differences in peace by inculcating a spirit of acceptance that builds on the foundation our existing Burkinabè ethos.

We would like to **reaffirm** our commitment and determination to work with PROCMURA it strives for Africa to remain a religious continent where people of faith lead by example in promoting harmonious relations towards the holistic development of the human family. Finally, we would like to thank God who enabled PROCMURA Central Office to organise this historic conference in our land commit ourselves to ensure that we spread the news of the new things we have learnt in this conference through the papers that were presented and our open discussions.



Ouagadougou 15th March 2011
The participants