



## INTER-FAITH ACTION FOR PEACE IN AFRICA

Inter-Faith Peace Summit in Africa  
14-19 October 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa

### JOHANNESBURG PLAN OF ACTION

(Adopted by consensus on 19 October 2002)

*Inspired by our respective faith traditions, and the encounters we have had with each other during the Inter-Faith Peace Summit in Africa (14-19 October 2002, Benoni near Johannesburg, South Africa), proceeding from the Johannesburg Inter-Faith Peace Declaration adopted on 17 October 2002, and in order to fulfil the commitments set out therein, we undertake the following plan of action:*

#### Summit Secretariat

1. The Summit secretariat (The Lutheran World Federation, Geneva) shall:
  - a) distribute the list of participants' names and addresses to all participants, in order to facilitate ongoing communication;
  - b) forward a copy of the Johannesburg Inter-Faith Peace Declaration, and this Plan of Action, to the African Union (AU), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Inter-Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), etc., to all African Governments, to relevant faith-based organizations, as well as to all participants; and
  - c) write forthwith on behalf of the Summit participants to the parties, mediators and other relevant actors in the current peace negotiations in respect of the situations in Sudan and Côte d'Ivoire, in order to express our prayers and support for the success of these negotiations.

#### Continuation Committee

2. A Continuation Committee will be established, with the assistance of the Summit secretariat, as a focal point for the follow-up to the Summit. The Continuation Committee shall consist of one representative from each of the inter-faith networks/groups represented at the Summit.
3. The Continuation Committee shall:
  - a) have the mandate to formulate and deliver appropriate statements, letters and other interventions in respect of cases of conflict in Africa, on behalf of the Summit participants. In the immediate post-Summit period, the Continuation Committee should pay particular attention to the situations in Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda and the DRC,

and to consider the possibility, appropriateness and purpose of dispatching delegations to visit the countries concerned;

- b) in consultation and cooperation with participating inter-faith networks/groups, facilitate a series of exchange visits between different inter-faith networks/groups in Africa;
- c) in consultation and cooperation with participating inter-faith networks/groups, promote communication and/or exchange visits between organized groups of people affected by conflict (e.g. former child soldiers, women, landmine survivors, refugees, etc.);
- d) in consultation and cooperation with participating inter-faith networks/groups, promote the establishment of an 'inter-faith peace fund' for voluntary contributions to support inter-faith peace efforts in Africa, including those described in this Plan of Action;
- e) explore the feasibility of establishing a web site (and e-mail network) for the purpose of better sharing of inter-faith initiatives for peace in Africa, and/or identify and publicize existing relevant and useful web sites; and
- f) convene a second Inter-Faith Peace Summit in Africa in 2004-2005, with expanded participation.

## **Participating Networks/Groups and Individuals**

4. Participating national inter-faith networks/groups shall:
  - a) consider adopting the Declaration of this Summit, and publicize and promote the Summit, its outcome and follow-up in their communities, countries and sub-regions;
  - b) strive, where appropriate, for more inclusive membership, including other faith traditions represented in the country, women and youth;
  - c) establish closer working cooperation between inter-faith networks/groups at a national level, where more than one such network/group exists in each country;
  - d) establish liaison on issues related to conflict resolution and peace promotion with:
    - their national governments;
    - the African Union and relevant regional bodies (such as SADC, ECOWAS, IGAD, COMESA, EAC, etc.);
    - relevant NGOs and institutions, both within and outside Africa, which are involved in peace making and conflict resolution efforts.
5. Participants from countries where inter-faith networks/groups do not exist, shall consider establishing such a network/group as appropriate.
6. The participating inter-faith groups/networks and individuals, in consultation with the Continuation Committee, shall:
  - a) convene sub-regional Inter-Faith Peace Summits in each of the (AU) regions of Africa during 2003-2004;

- b) organize capacity-building workshops in each of the sub-regions (either in conjunction with the sub-regional summits or separately) on the topics of:
  - conflict resolution and mediation techniques, including African traditional methods;
  - education for a culture of peace, including human rights and freedom of religion;
  - healing and reconciliation praxis in post-conflict societies;
  - advocacy skills;
- c) promote understanding, tolerance and respect for each others' religions, in particular in the content of preaching and prayer, educational curricula and materials, training programmes – both formal and informal, books and other publications, media, etc.; and to identify and publicize existing available materials suitable for these purposes; and
- d) integrate in preaching and advocacy the following issues:
  - i) deadly weapons;
  - ii) child soldiers;
  - iii) refugees and displaced persons;
  - iv) food aid;
  - v) health (HIV/AIDS);
  - vi) gender equity;
  - vii) poverty – job creation, equity in resource sharing;
  - viii) budget priorities (e.g. military spending vs. development);
  - ix) New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);
  - x) democracy and good governance;
  - xi) human rights and responsibilities, and human dignity;
  - xii) environmental degradation and sustainable development;
  - xiii) tolerance.

## **Financing**

7. The participating networks/groups and individuals shall to the maximum possible extent be themselves responsible for the fundraising and financing of the above activities. The Continuation Committee shall help facilitate and coordinate such fundraising and financing, in particular in relation to the proposed 'inter-faith peace fund'.