

## Press Release by the Lutheran Council in Africa

### *Preamble:*

We, the members of the Lutheran Council in Africa (LUCA) meeting here in Accra, Ghana, at the Meaglent Hotel from May 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014; representing the three sub-regions, viz., Lutheran Communion in Central East Africa (LUCCEA); Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) and Lutheran Communion in Central Western Africa (LUCCWA), reflected on violence meted out to East, Central and West Africa;

Having shared the pain caused by inter alia, the abduction of more than 270 school girls by Boko Haram in Nigeria; bombing in Kenya and Tanzania, violence in the Central African Republic, Congo, Sudan and South Sudan which spills over to Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Fasso, Cameroon and other countries in these regions;

We strongly and unreservedly condemn violence irrespective of who the perpetrators are.

### *We therefore resolved to call upon:*

- Boko Haram to release the abducted school girls in Nigeria unconditionally and without further delay;
- The Nigerian and all African governments including the UN member states to jointly act together in order to prevent such barbaric actions to be repeated in future;
- Al Shabaab and its allies to desist from using violence as a weapon to air and articulate their grievances;
- Seleka and Anti Balaka in the Central African Republic to desist from killing their fellow citizens, especially not in the name of religion;
- The faith communities to engage in inter-faith dialogue so as to foster the spirit and culture of peaceful co-existence in this part of God's world, which God has given to us all.

- Lutheran churches in Africa and their ecumenical allies to continue to pray for peace and work for justice in Africa and the whole world.