

**RESOLUTION ON THE CONFERENCE “CARITAS IN VERITATE”:-  
THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH AS A LEAVEN OF INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT**

PREAMBLE

We, representatives of the Justice and Peace Commissions of 24 African countries and other participants gathered in Accra from September 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 under the umbrella of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace reflected on “**Caritas in Veritate**” and the Social Doctrine of the Church with a focus on Africa.

The Conference recognized that “**Caritas in Veritate**” and the Social Doctrine of the Church are neither readily accessible nor familiar to and understood by most faithful, and that development in Africa is not people-centred and not sufficiently guided by the Social Doctrine of the Church.

Enlightened by the presentations and discussions, participants, reflected on four main questions:

1. What is “**Caritas in Veritate**”?
2. How can African Development be made Human-Centred?
3. How can “**Caritas in Veritate**” be made relevant and applicable as a Leaven of Integral Development in Africa?
4. What follow-up actions are necessary to ensure that “**Caritas in Veritate**” becomes an effective tool for Integral Development in Africa in light of the Second African Synod?

RESOLUTIONS

In promoting the Social Doctrine of the Church as a Leaven of Integral Development and the **common good in Africa**, the Conference resolves that the Church should take priority actions on the following:

**Resolution 1**

Growing its own capacity and knowledge of the teachings of its Social Doctrine through continuous formation and the development of its institutions and structures of Justice and Peace at the local and regional levels towards improved dissemination, greater advocacy, dialoguing and networking within and outside individual countries;

## **Resolution 2**

Promoting a greater internal and external exposure to the **development principles and values of the Social Doctrine of the Church** alongside the insights on contemporary development issues developed in **Caritas in Veritate**; particularly among political and civil authorities, and providing linkages with structures for the implementation of the outcomes of the Second African Synod;

## **Resolution 3**

Seeking priority for the **welfare of the poor** in national budgeting and resource allocations in order to enhance their access to basic health, education, production and income-generating opportunities, and by monitoring their progress, **and ensuring the holistic protection of life from conception to natural death.**

## **Resolution 4**

Supporting **development that is holistic** in terms of addressing all the dimensions of the Human Person, **home-grown** in its application of innovative and time-tested indigenous production strategies, and **participatory** in its sharing of benefits;

## **Resolution 5**

Encouraging greater continental self-reliance and self-assertion, supporting the sustainable, long-term management and distribution of human, natural and environmental resources, including controlling the brain drain, especially of the continent's scientific and technological manpower; and the elimination of negative governance practices and international cooperation arrangements;

## **Resolution 6**

Assuring that its structures and practices are just in matters such as the treatment of women, wages, accountability and closeness to the poor, as well as promoting internal reconciliation between bishops, priests, the religious and laity in order that it can be a reconciling force as emphasized by the Second African Synod;

## **Resolution 7**

Reviewing the Educational Curriculum from pre-school to universities and infusing the Catholic Social Doctrine into it in order to enhance the **common good**;

## **Resolution 8**

Financially sustaining the Justice and Peace Commissions to prosecute the agenda on the Social Doctrine of the Church in responding to the recommendations of the Second African Synod;

## Resolution 9

Establishing a Committee to oversee the implementation of the Resolutions of this Conference.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

We therefore recommend that in order to promote African Integral Development:

1. The Church in Africa should endeavour to make “**Caritas in Veritate**” the basis of development in Africa and the elimination of poverty;
2. African political leaders and public officials should be encouraged to adopt the Church’s Social Doctrine and apply it to their leadership, making the development process more locally-driven;
3. Economic operators should be encouraged to desist from marginalizing and depriving the poor of their right to decent work and wages;
4. African Laity and Church personnel should by their lifestyle exemplify the values of modesty, justice and charity enshrined in the Church’s teaching;
5. The Church should continue to encourage the International Community to demonstrate greater justice and charity in their relations with Africa; and
6. **The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace should support National, Regional and Continental initiatives to follow up the implementation of **Caritas in Veritate** , the Second African Synod and the dissemination of the Social Doctrine of the Church.**

We, the participants commit ourselves to promoting “**Caritas in Veritate**” and the Social Doctrine of the Church and making them effective instruments for all aspects of life on the Continent.

Dated: 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.

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