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## IV CONTINENTAL MEETING WEST AFRICA 2

**LIFE, BREAD, PEACE, FREEDOM.  
For a prosperous, peaceful  
and reconciled Africa  
SENEGA, DAKAR**



After the II special Assembly of the Bishops' Synod for Africa (October 2009).

*You are the salt of the earth..., You are the light of the world* Mt 5,13-14

### **FINAL COMMUNICATION**

The IV African Continental Meeting (No 2) took place in January 2011 from 19<sup>th</sup> up to 23<sup>rd</sup> in Poponguine (Dakar in Senegal). It was attended by the countries from West Africa (CERAO-Senegal, Mali, Benin, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria), an also by some countries from Europe as well as from IFCA International Secretariat (Italy, Spain, Romania and Burundi). This seminary was promoted by the International Forum of Catholic Action (IFCA) in collaboration with the Lay Apostolate Coordination of Senegal on the theme: «Life, Bread, Peace and Freedom For a prosperous, peaceful and reconciled Africa. *You are the salt of the earth ..., You are the light of the world* » Mt 5:13-14.

IFCA intended to receive immediately the message that the Synod addressed... "to the whole Church, Family of God, especially to the Church in Africa: to our brother bishops on whose behalf we are here; to the priests, deacons, religious and all the lay faithful, and to all whose hearts God may open to listen to our words.." (IV part22-28): "This Synod turns with deep affection to the lay faithful of Africa ...".

This Meeting aimed to be a special moment of formation for the leaders, for the Assistants of the Catholic Action Movements and for the Laity. It was attended by one hundred (100) people: bishops, priests, religious and many lay people coming from eleven (11) countries.

The following themes were dealt with:

1. Catholic Action Movements' identity and IFCA prospects by Oana TUDUCE, National president of the Catholic Action of Romania and by Maria Grazia TIBALDI, Italy, IFCA permanent Secretary.
2. Guided reading of the Bishops' Synod message to the people of God and prospects after the Synod by H. Em. Cardinal Théodor Adrien SARR, Archbishop of Dakar and President of CERAO.
2. The Catholic Action, a gift of the Holy Spirit, in the universal Church and in the local Church, by H.E. Msgr. Domenico SIGALINI, Bishop of Palestrina and ecclesiastical Assistant of Italian Catholic Action and IFCA.

3. The Church in Africa in the heart of the universal Church, opportunities, gifts and challenges: priority of the formation, by Msgr. Barthélemy ADOUKONOU, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

4 Lay people's participation and co-responsibility in the Church, by Edouard A. ADE from Benin and Mr Célestin Marie TINE, general Secretary of the Laity national Council in Senegal.

5. Principles and conditions to promote a prosperous, peaceful and reconciled Africa, in the light of the Church Social Doctrine of the Church by Msgr. Alphonse SECK, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Dakar and Rev. Salvator NICITERETSE (Burundi), IFCA African Coordinator and Secretary of CELA in Burundi.

All the above themes were enriched by many contributions and witnesses given by the participants also during the workshops.

The participants investigated the challenges posed to the evangelization and human dignity: poverty, social injustice, misgovernment, persistent insecurity, bad start of democracy which concerns many countries, corruption, decay of moral values, urgency of reconciliation, necessity of the culture of peace, need of integral formation, especially in the Church Social Doctrine...

We, lay people and members of the Catholic Action, who participated in this forum, being aware of our own vocation which by virtue of our Baptism makes us co-responsible in the mission and the life of the Church, engage ourselves:

- to awake, rise and act in order to promote and defend the Christian values (sacred gift of life, human dignity, justice, truth, freedom...) in all spheres of life.
- To know better and to integrate our cultures in a more conscious and consistent way in the light of the Gospel.
- To engage ourselves more and more in the interreligious and intercultural dialogue.
- To deepen the reflection on ecclesiality, laity, organic dimension and collaboration with the Hierarchy: the four notes highlighted in *Apostolicam Actuositatem* (n° 20) which characterize the Catholic Action Movements. In today's context with a plurality of Associations and Movements and ensuring full respect for all forms of lay associations, we confirm the validity of the Catholic Action Movements, a gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church

We recommend to the ecclesiastical Hierarchy:

- \_ to promote the lay people's formation in order to render the mission of the Church more effective.
- \_ To create synergy of reflection and action, at all levels, between pastors, consecrated persons and lay faithful, based on the co-responsibility in the Church-communion.
- \_ To provide the structures of the Lay apostolate Coordination with the consequent resources, both human, material and financial, in order to enable it to fulfil its goals.
- \_ To create the basic conditions for a dialogue with the politicians and with the leaders of the civil society in view of the Common Good and the Constitutional State.

We recommend to IFCA:

to promote this kind of seminaries of formation at International, continental, regional and diocesan level, as much as possible.

The participants thanked all the Bishops for their support and their teaching during the Eucharistic Celebrations and the conferences they presided over, IFCA Secretariat who contributed to the success of this seminary.

Last but not the least, we received with a sincere joy the message and the benediction of the Holy Father who encourages us to «engage ourselves on the roads of reconciliation and peace...» and not to be afraid...«to devote our time to acquire a living faith, through a stable spiritual and human formation».

We thank H: Em. Cardinal Théodore Adrien SARR, Archbishop of Dakar and President of CERAO, H.E. Apostolic Nuncio in Senegal, the president of the National Assembly of Senegal accompanied by many deputies and the other important authorities who attended the official opening of the seminary.

### ***The Participants***