

INTER -RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF UGANDA

RESOLUTION BY THE DELEGATES ATTENDING THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE RECONCILIATION, JUSTICE AND PEACE 10TH TO 12TH SEPTEMBER 2009

We, the religious, cultural and political leaders having met in a Conference whose theme was “Search for Sustainable Reconciliation, Justice and Peace at All Levels”

Aware of the fact that a lot has been achieved in our country since independence in 1962, especially since the National Resistance Movement came to power in 1986, which include the improvement of security, promotion of formal education for all our children, revival at the economy through liberalization, the opening of political space, improvement at the road and telecommunications sectors, and provision of programs such as *bonna bagawale* (prosperity-for-all) to improve the livelihoods of our people;

Having observed the following challenges our country is going through which include the vicious cycle of political, domestic, and cultural violence, rising level of corruption eating away the moral fibre of our society and social services delivery in the country, ritual murder and trafficking, resurgence of ethnocentrism and politicization of the same by unscrupulous people, and inadequacies in leadership at all levels;

Concerned that not enough has been done to put in place a credible mechanism for promotion of reconciliation and peaceful dispute resolution, and for enhancing democratic governance in the country;

Hereby recommend the following:

- An appropriate legal framework should be enacted by Parliament of Uganda to regulate and enhance reconciliation and peacebuilding in the country.
- A Truth and Reconciliation Commission should be set up expeditiously to deal with both historical and current wrongs with view of promoting reconciliation and healing among the different groups and individuals in Uganda.
- Government should expedite the enactment of a law and policy to regulate the operations and activities of cultural institutions.
- A credible process of electoral reforms, including the review of membership of the Electoral Commission, should be undertaken to enhance transparency and credibility in our electoral system, hence prevent election-related violence in the country.
- Political parties should learn to work together in the interest of the common good of the people of Uganda.

- Government should intensify and show a clear political will in the war against corruption.
- A Notional Consultative Forum, stipulated in the Political Organizations Act, should be operationalized and supported by Government to facilitate consensus-building among key stakeholders on critical political, social and economic challenges and processes in the country.
- Inter Religious Council of Uganda should play an active role in the promotion of a culture of peace, coexistence and nonviolence in the country

We as religious and cultural leaders are committed to the following:

- Use of our structures and social assets to raise awareness and empower the citizens on their rights, duties and responsibilities in the development process of our country.
- Offer ourselves as mediators in conflict resolution and reconciliation processes at different levels.
- Offer ourselves to organize annual forum for interactions and dialogue among different stakeholders in the country.
- Intensify our efforts in the fight against corruption and moral decadence in our society.
- Mobilize our communities to work hard and utilize available opportunities to improve their livelihoods.

CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, JUSTICE AND PEACE.

The Convener and the organizing committee for the National Conference on Reconciliation, Justice and Peace which took place from, **10th -12th September, 2009**, would like to thank all people and institutions that made the conference possible.

Special appreciation goes to the following:

1. His Excellency Yoweri Kuguta Museveni , President at Uganda: - for his moral and financial support and for gracing the conference with his personal presence and for manifesting commitment to the process of promoting Sustainable Reconciliation, Justice and Peace in Uganda.
2. **The sponsors who** include: Inter religious Council of Uganda , Catholic Relief Services, Uganda Joint Christian Council, TROCAIRE, and Justice and Peace Commission - Uganda.
3. The participants and particularly the Religious Leader, the Cultural Leaders, , Political Leader and representative of interest group;- for their active participation and valuable contribution.
4. The Key Note Speakers:- for their enlightening and challenging insights as well as the members of the various sub-committees;-

5. The management and Staff of Pope Paul VI Memorial Hotel and Hotel .Africana:
- for their hospitality.
6. We wish to urge Ugandans to pursue non-violent means for conflict resolution.

Signed by
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Secretary General -IRCU
For and on behalf of the Organizing Committee

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