

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER GENERAL  
MEETING OF THE NIGERIA INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (NIREC) HELD AT THE  
REIZ CONTINENTAL HOTEL, ABUJA FROM 18<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021**

**PREAMBLE:**

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) held its 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter General Meeting at the Reiz Continental Hotel, Abuja from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2021. The meeting was co-chaired by His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammed Sa’ad Abubakar, CFR, mni, the President-General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev. Dr. Samson Olasupo Ayokunle. The Secretary to the Federal Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Gado Mustapha who was represented by Dr. Mbaeri Maurice Nnamdi, Permanent Secretary, General Service Office, OSGF declared the meeting open.

**ATTENDANCE:**

The opening ceremony was attended by members of NIREC, H. E. Governor Simon Lalong, the Executive Governor of Plateau State who is also the Chairman of the 19 Northern State Governors, Representative of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Gado Mustapha, representative of the Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory and other dignitaries.

The theme of the meeting was ***“Ethnic, Religious and Political Profiling is Avoidable”***. Two papers were presented on the theme by Elder (Dr.) Mrs. Uzoaku Juliana Williams (Co-Publicity Secretary, Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace and National President, Women wing of the Christian Council of Nigeria and Hajia Salamatu Ibrahim (former National Amirah of Muslim Sisters Organization, MSO and Co-Secretary of Central Coordination “Council of Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace”)

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

The plenary session and meeting discussed the state of the Nation and examined a number of issues that are very relevant to the wellbeing of Nigerian citizens and the peace of the country and resolved as follows: -

1. There is hunger, pain and anger in the land because of the many challenges that Nigeria is currently facing like insecurity, daily shedding of innocent blood, kidnapping, banditry, mass unemployment, attack on farmers by herdsmen, ritual killing, corruption, agitations for separation, restructuring and True Federalism.
2. Breaking up of Nigeria as a solution to the myriad problems of Nigerian. Thus, NIREC calls on government at all levels to be more responsive, transparent, accountable, just and fair in governance and reduce the feelings of alienation and marginalization which inspires the calls for dismemberment of Nigeria.
3. Nigeria's problems are complex and multi-dimensional and have so far defied human solution. NIREC calls on religious groups and all individual to intensify their prayers on Nigeria to the Almighty God. Sin is a barrier to acceptance of prayers by God. NIREC therefore urges all Nigerians to seek repentance and avoid sins so that God will answer our prayers and bring peace, security, joy and economic progress to the country. DIALOGUE is the key to resolution of problems.
4. Profiling is Grouping/classification/stereotyping. Profiling divides our common humanity, it is anti-national and is a danger to our sense of oneness and to our honest relations with one another. Profiling can manifest as hate, malice and name calling. NIREC urges all Nigerians to avoid profiling, especially ethnic and religious profiling of criminals. People who commit various criminalities do so on their own accord and not as representatives of their tribal or religious groups.
5. The Government should intensify security for Nigerians and be pro-active on intelligence gathering.
6. The government should fund the Armed Forces adequately so that they can perform their functions properly and protect innocent Nigerians from Boko Haram, kidnappers, herdsmen and other criminals.

7. Government at all levels should reduce unemployment by creating more job opportunities for the teeming unemployed Nigerians, especially the youths, by restructuring moribund companies, increase agricultural facilities, grant agricultural loans to youths, increase electricity supply to Nigerians and ensure accessibility to funds for small and medium scale industries to reduce poverty.
8. Government should reduce expenditure and restructure the country, by truly operating a federal system of government instead of a Unitary System of Government. More power should devolve to all the States of the federation.
9. Government should DIALOGUE with JUSUN and the Parliamentary Union. NIREC offers to mediate between JUSUN, the Parliamentary Union and the Government.
10. Government should urgently establish State Police to curb insecurity in the land.
11. Government should investigate the supplies of ammunitions to insurgents and killer herdsmen.
12. Government and Security Agents should ensure that criminals are brought to justice and trials of arrested suspects should be speedily concluded to serve as deterrent to others.
13. The Kaduna State Government and the Labour Congress should Dialogue and reach a compromise in order to ameliorate the suffering of Kaduna citizens.
14. Government should strengthen the Police and the Judiciary. The failure of the Police Force and the Judiciary can ruin any nation in terms of security. Justice for every citizen would prevent ethnic and religious profiling. If there is justice, the nation would not need to deploy the army for internal insurrection.
15. Nigerians should build an environment where prejudice, corruption, intolerance, violence and other vices will remain alien to our culture and practices. Nigerians must renew and increase their faith in the unity of Nigeria. We must continue to live together and pursue the common good as a community and promote peace in the country. There shall be no war in Nigeria by the grace of God and Nigeria shall remain one country. Let us

love one another as God commanded irrespective of religious, ethnic or political affiliations.

17. Parents should bring up their children in the fear of God and inculcate in their children rich virtues and good values that Africa represents.
18. Religious, traditional leaders and all Nigerians should promote peace and unity in the country and to take seriously the need to support the Government by fighting poverty, illiteracy, corruption and unemployment that has been responsible for backwardness and increase in crime in the nation.
19. Nigerians should avail themselves for the COVID-19 vaccination at the designated centres as this is the most effective and sure way to curtail the spread of the disease for now.

NIREC commends the effort of the Plateau State Governor, H. E. Mr. Simon Lalong, at promoting love and unity between Christian and Moslems in the State and calls on other State Governors to emulate Governor Lalong.

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) appreciates the immense support and contribution of the Federal Government under President Muhammed Buhari and particularly the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Gida Mustapha.

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**His Eminence Alhaji Muhammed Sa'ad Abubakar (CFR), mni**  
The Sultan of Sokoto and President-General,  
Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA)  
**CO-CHAIRMAN (NIREC)**

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**His Eminence Dr. Samson Olasupo Ayokunle**  
President, Christian Association of  
Nigeria (CAN)  
**CO-CHAIRMAN (NIREC)**

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**Rev. Fr. Prof. Cornelius Afebu Omonokhua**  
Executive Secretary