

COMMUNIQUE OF THE FIRST QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING OF THE NIGERIA INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (NIREC) HELD FROM 11TH – 13TH MARCH, 2020 AT THE SHERATON HOTEL, ABUJA

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) held its 2020 first Quarterly General Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel, Abuja from 11th – 13th March, 2020 with the theme **“TOGETHER WE CAN GROW PEACE FOR THE NATION”**.

The meeting was co-chaired by His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa’ad Abubakar, C.F.R, mni, the President-General of the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (C.A.N), Rev. Dr. Samson Olasupo A. Ayokunle.

APPRECIATION

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) acknowledged the immense support and contribution of the Federal Government under President Muhammadu Buhari for ensuring the facilitation and sustenance of the Council particularly the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Gida Mustapha.

RESOLUTIONS

After extensive deliberations, at the end of the Council meeting, members resolved that;

1. Nigerians must continue to build an environment where prejudice, intolerance, violence and other vices shall remain alien to our culture and practices.
2. NIREC abhors and condemns the disturbing trend of kidnapping, armed robbery, killing of innocent citizens by bandits, Boko Haram, religious and ethnic tensions, herders/farmers conflict, militancy, insurgency that are increasingly becoming pervasive in the country. The practices are illegal and repugnant to the norms of our religion, traditions and culture.
3. Determined efforts should be made by Government and religious leaders to check the problems in order to protect the moral well-being of the

people. They should douse the religious and ethnic tensions that are pervading the country.

4. Nigerians should continue to live together and pursue the common good as a community.
5. Political and government authorities should intensify the provision of security in the country in order to minimize criminal activities.
6. Justice and good governance remain the most effective means for the promotion of peace, harmony, mutual co-existence and the development of a country. Therefore, all Nigerians must work together in peace and harmony to banish poverty from the land and ensure that every citizen lives a decent and productive life.
7. Government, organizations and influential Nigerians should take seriously the need to fight poverty, illiteracy and unemployment that have been responsible for backwardness and increase in crime in the nation.
8. Concerned about the drop in good virtues in the society leading to cultism and excessive drug abuse by youths as affecting the future of the next generation, the council calls on family units to spare more time to raise their children in a Godly manner by inculcating positive values in them.
9. All religious leaders should serve as peace advocates, talk in wisdom and avoid preaching inflammatory messages to their followers. Religious leaders must speak the truth at all times.
10. There is an increase in negative media reportage and Nigerians should desist from spreading fake news, hate speeches and any other information that can tamper with the peace of the nation.
11. All Nigerians should grow their spiritual nature.
12. All Nigerians should storm heaven with fasting and prayers for mercy and the forgiveness of our sins, especially the massive shedding of innocent blood by criminals and the healing of our land, peace and prosperity for all.
13. Government at all levels should create more job opportunities for the teeming unemployed Nigerians, especially youths, by resuscitating moribund companies, increase agricultural facilities, create more skill development centres, increase electricity supply to Nigerians and ensure

accessibility of funds for small and medium scale industries to reduce poverty.

14. All Nigerians should note that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the Coronavirus (COVID 19) a pandemic. Few cases have been confirmed in Nigeria and measures are being taken to prevent its spread in the country. We urge Nigerians to adhere to government regulations as well as improve their personal hygiene, monitor body temperature regularly, report illnesses, follow medical advice and frequently wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizers to disinfect their hand. We pray that after this pandemic, the world will become a better place for peaceful coexistence.

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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