

# **African Council of Religious Leaders** **Religions for Peace**

## **Nairobi Declaration on Shared Sacred Flourishing For Peace and Justice in Africa** Nairobi, Kenya | 11–12 August 2025

### **1. Preamble**

We, the participants of the 5th General Assembly of the African Council of Religious Leaders – *Religions for Peace* (ACRL-R/P), met in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 12 August 2025 under the theme “*Shared Sacred Flourishing: Interfaith Leadership for Peace and Justice in Africa.*” Our gathering brought together religious leaders from across Africa, along with representatives of the African Women of Faith Network, the African Interfaith Youth Network, scholars, humanitarian actors, policy makers, and civil society partners. This diversity of voices reflects our conviction that building a just and peaceful Africa requires the combined moral authority of faith leaders, the technical expertise of practitioners, and the active engagement of communities.

We convened at a time when Africa faces profound challenges, notably, persistent conflicts displacing millions, humanitarian crises worsened by climate change and economic instability, fragile governance undermining trust, and environmental destruction threatening life itself. Added to these are growing restrictions on religious freedom, which erode dignity and deepen division. In this declaration, we speak as one across faiths and nations, affirming our shared responsibility to heal our continent and safeguard our common humanity. We commit ourselves to concrete action, guided by the conviction that peace, justice, and human flourishing are sacred imperatives that must shape our policies, our partnerships, and our daily witness.

### **2. Affirmation of the Shared Sacred Flourishing Framework**

We reaffirm the *Shared Sacred Flourishing (SSF) Framework* as a moral foundation of our work, recognizing that true development is impossible without reverence for the sacred, respect for human dignity, commitment to the common good, and care for creation. Its four pillars;

- (1) *the Sacred as the foundation of being,*
- (2) *the human person as a moral agent,*
- (3) *society as a shared responsibility, and*
- (4) *the Earth as sacred,* guide our vision.

We pledge to integrate these realities into peacebuilding, by grounding reconciliation in sacred values; into governance, by promoting transparent and inclusive leadership; and into environmental stewardship, by treating care for creation as a sacred duty.

### **3. Resolutions on the Sudan Crisis**

We express our profound alarm at the worsening conflict in Sudan, which has led to mass displacement, the tragic loss of countless lives, and the desecration and mistreatment of the dead, the collapse of governance, and deep social fragmentation. The suffering of the Sudanese people compels urgent, united action from Africa's religious leaders.

We therefore resolve to:

- a) Undertake an independent and in-depth assessment of the conflict, including its geopolitical and economic drivers, notably the exploitation of minerals.
- b) Counter the spread of misinformation and hate speech, particularly via social media, by promoting truthful and responsible communication.
- c) Engage directly and morally with the principal conflict leaders, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo "Hemedti", and involve respected religious leaders with influence over the warring factions.
- d) Coordinate advocacy with the African Union, the United Nations, faith-based organizations, and diplomatic missions to advance an African-led, inclusive peace process.
- e) Mobilize all faith communities for a Continental Day of Prayer and Fasting on 21 September, International Day of Peace, accompanied by peace walks and shared messages of reconciliation. The date for the Continental Day of Prayer and Fasting must be publicized widely from now to mobilize all stakeholders towards its success.
- f) The Council resolves to engage in in-depth negotiations aimed at launching a comprehensive peace campaign for Sudan, and reinforced by targeted online advocacy campaigns that actively involves youth in promoting messages of peace and reconciliation.
- g) Provide psychosocial and trauma-healing support to Sudanese refugees and internally displaced persons in partnership with humanitarian agencies.
- h) The Council, while condemning the violence and defamatory acts, commits to intensifying efforts to channel humanitarian aid to Sudan and other refugee camps, ensuring that those affected receive timely relief and dignity in care.

### **4. Commitments to Other Priority Crises**

While Sudan demands urgent attention, we also recognize other pressing concerns requiring sustained commitment:

- a) The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Palestine/Gaza, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, and other areas where violence is ongoing: We strongly condemn the ongoing violence and humanitarian suffering in these regions, and commit to mobilizing interfaith solidarity to address the urgent needs of affected populations and to advocate relentlessly for lasting peace.
- b) Religious Freedom: We uphold the sacredness, human dignity and human rights of every individual and community to worship freely, including adherents of African Traditional Religions, and advocate for legal protections for religious diversity.
- c) Xenophobia and Discrimination: We condemn all forms of discrimination, including the reported denial of health care to African diaspora in South Africa, and commit to promoting solidarity, hospitality, and mutual care across African nations.

## **5. Call to Action and Closing Commitment**

We, the participants of the 5th General Assembly of the African Council of Religious Leaders – *Religions for Peace* (ACRL-RfP), solemnly affirm our sacred commitment to peace, justice, and the dignity of every human person. These principles are not negotiable; they are the moral bedrock upon which our shared future must be built.

We call upon:

- a) Governments to embrace dialogue over conflict, to uphold the rule of law, and to ensure that the rights of all people, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or nationality, are protected.
- b) We further commit to exploring mediation avenues between ECOWAS and the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) to expand peacebuilding efforts in West Africa, particularly in Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali.
- c) Civil society and international partners to join hands with Africa’s religious leaders in implementing these resolutions with urgency, creativity, and persistence.

We affirm that the commitments made in the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the African Council of Religious Leaders – *Religions for Peace* (ACRL-RfP), constitute a shared pledge to work together, across faith traditions and national boundaries, to heal the divisions of our continent and to build a future anchored in peace, justice, and the flourishing of all.

In closing, we lift a united multi-faith blessing over Africa and beyond:

**May the Creator of all things, grant our peoples the courage to seek peace, the wisdom to pursue justice, and the strength to protect the sanctity of life and creation. May our shared sacred flourishing become a living reality in our generation and for generations to come.**