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GLOBAL SOUTH CATHOLIC LEADERS AMPLIFY THE CHURCH'S VOICE AT COP30



Editorial:

A PROPHETIC VOICE

P. 2

ACEAC: CONSOLIDATING PEACE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Pp. 11-12





A PROPHETIC VOICE FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH AT COP30

The COP30 in Brazil marked a historic moment for global climate governance: for the first time, the Catholic Church of the Global South hosted a high-level event at a UN Climate Conference. With the united leadership of Fridolin Cardinal Ambongo (SECAM), Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão (FABC), and Jaime Cardinal Spengler (CELAM), the Church stepped forward as a moral and prophetic voice calling the world to urgent ecological responsibility.

Central to the Church's message was the conviction, rooted in *Laudato Si'*, that ecological destruction and social injustice are inseparable. The environmental crisis disproportionately harms vulnerable communities across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, where catastrophic floods, prolonged droughts, and displacement linked to resource exploitation are becoming routine. With global temperatures reaching 1.55°C in 2024, climate impacts now threaten food security, water supplies, and the livelihoods of millions.

Church leaders also warned against "false solutions" that reproduce colonial patterns under the guise of sustainability, carbon markets that commodify nature, extractive mining for "green" minerals, and large-scale renewable projects imposed without community consent. They criticized the narrative of green capitalism, insisting that a profit-driven transition cannot bring ecologi-

cal justice.

Instead, the Church called for a paradigm shift grounded in ecological conversion, embracing simplicity, solidarity, and respect for indigenous wisdom such as "Buen Vivir" ("Good Living"). It urged wealthy nations to acknowledge their ecological debt by operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund, cancelling or reducing the debts of poorer countries, and ensuring climate finance reaches affected communities directly.

The Church's leaders emphasized that justice-centered climate action must include the participation of indigenous peoples, women, youth, and local communities. They outlined pathways for genuine transformation: strengthening faith-based alliances, protecting territories, advancing community-led renewable energy, and recognizing climate migration as a human rights issue.

The Church's presence at COP30 signals a new era of moral leadership. Through initiatives such as the emerging Ecclesial Observatory on Climate Justice, the Church in the Global South commits to sustained advocacy, urging the world to defend our Common Home with courage, justice, and hope.

Rev. Fr. Rafael Simbine Junior

Secretary General of SECAM

APPOINTMENTS BY POPE LEO



Bishop John Kwamevi Cudjoe, SVD

Bishop John Kwamevi Cudjoe

The Holy Father has appointed on November 11, 2025, the Rev. Fr. John Kwamevi Cudjoe, S.V.D., until now parish priest of Maria Madre de la Iglesia in Huasquillas, as auxiliary bishop of the metropolitan archdiocese of Guayaquil, assigning him the titular see of Calama.

Mgr Kwamevi Cudjoe was born on 27 December 1975 in Accra, Ghana, in the metropolitan archdiocese of the same name. He was ordained a priest on 30 July 2005 and incardinated in the Missionaries of the Divine Word.

Archbishop Brian Udaigwe

On November 3, 2025, the Holy Father has appointed Archbishop Brian Udaigwe, titular of Suelli, apostolic nuncio in Ethiopia, as apostolic nuncio in Djibouti, special representative at the African Union and apostolic delegate in Somalia. Born in Tiko, Cameroon, on July 19, 1964, Brian Udaigwe was ordained a priest on May 2, 1992 for the Catholic Diocese of Orlu in Nigeria.

Rev. Fr. Edward Daniang Daleng

The Holy Father has appointed on November 10, 2025, the Rev.

Fr. Edward Daniang Daleng, O.S.A., former general counsellor and procurator general of the Order of Saint Augustine, as Vice-Regent of the Prefecture of the Papal Household. Fr. Edward Daniang Daleng was born on 4 April 1977 in Yitla'ar, Kwalla, Plateau State, Nigeria.

Msgr Anthony Onyemuche Ekpo

On November 19, 2025, the Holy Father has appointed the Rev. Monsignor Anthony Onyemuche Ekpo, until now undersecretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, as assessor for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State. Msgr Anthony Onyemuche Ekpo was born in Umudike, Nigeria, on 24 September 1981.

Bishop Javier Herrera Corona

The Holy Father has appointed on November 22, 2025, Archbishop Javier Herrera Corona, titular of Vulturara, until now apostolic nuncio in the Republic of the Congo and in Gabon, as apostolic nuncio in Algeria.

*Address by Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo Besungu, OFM Cap.
President of SECAM - Africa*

A CALL FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE AND FOR OUR COMMON HOME.
Ecological conversion, transformation and resistance to false solutions



Presentation of the document at the UN Pavilion

Your Excellency,

Introduction

This year, the Conference of the Parties is being held in the heart of the Amazon rainforest. For us, the choice of this location is prophetic and highly symbolic. By coming here to Belém, the negotiators have come to meet the peoples and territories that are suffering most from the climate crisis. This symbolism is also the meaning of the message we are unveiling today in this place. Our statement is a cry of distress from pastors who walk every day with the victims of the climate crisis. Through our words, we want to bring to the table of the powerful the ‘cries of the poor and the clamour of the earth’ (LS 49).

1. Africa

From this platform, I lend my voice to the peoples of Africa where our churches work. This continent, known for its potential wealth, is populated by a majority of poor people. This paradox is the result of an economic system of plunder that has never placed the human person at the centre of its concerns.

Today, this continent is climatically

fragile, sandwiched between the Sahara Desert to the north and the Kalahari Desert to the south. These two deserts are advancing dangerously and disrupting communities in an alarming way. The alarming situation in the Sahel is a dramatic example of this.

In central Africa, the Congo Basin forest, the planet's second largest lung, is under serious threat from massive deforestation, the rush for fossil fuels and critical minerals. This forest, which plays an important role in global climate balance, must be protected and preserved, as its degradation could have irreversible consequences for the planet.

Climate change in Africa has other adverse effects. It is at the root of the forced migration crisis and the rise in armed conflicts on the continent. In the Congo Basin, and particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where I come from, the plundering of natural and mineral resources is one of the structural causes of conflict. The global race for minerals needed for the energy transition, such as cobalt, coltan and lithium, is causing sub-regional conflict with dramatic humanitarian and environmental



consequences.

The climate crisis is therefore a reality for African populations. Africa is currently facing a food crisis and the displacement of populations who are genuine climate refugees.

Faced with such a tragedy, the responses proposed to date seem inadequate to us.

How can we accept that, in the name of the 'energy transition', entire communities are being destroyed in the search for lithium, cobalt or nickel? How can we tolerate carbon markets turning our forests into financial assets, while our communities remain deprived of drinking water?

We say enough is enough: enough false solutions, enough decisions made without listening to those who are on the front line of climate collapse!

We propose a transformation that places care for life, the sovereignty of indigenous and rural peoples over their territories, and the active defence of the rights of women, climate migrants and new generations at its centre.

This is why we are calling for an urgent rethinking of the climate finance debate. The need to put the financing debate on the COP agenda is therefore aimed at finding a solution to the lack of financing for poor countries.

2. Our appeal

The document we are presenting today, entitled "Call for Climate Justice and for

our Common Home. Ecological conversion, transformation and resistance to false solutions" contains a number of proposals from the churches of the global South, namely Africa, Asia and Latin America, to break the deadlock in which the world finds itself.

Following on from the encyclical 'Laudato Si', it proposes 'integral ecology' as a sustainable solution to the climate crisis. Integral ecology is a paradigm of socio-environmental justice that seeks to correct the technocratic approach that has dominated the negotiations of the Conference of the Parties (COP) on climate change for several years. These approaches, often based on technology and the market, do not address the root causes of the current climate crisis.

We propose integral ecology, which sets in motion an approach that combines social justice, environmental sustainability, international solidarity, historical responsibility, political urgency and the need for ecological conversion.

By 'integral ecology', we recall that for the Church, the environmental crisis and the social crisis are inseparable. It is one and the same crisis because, as the encyclical 'Laudato Si' says, 'everything is connected' (LS n° 139). The solution to the climate crisis cannot therefore be achieved through a fragmented approach. In other words, combating poverty goes hand in hand with restoring the dignity of victims and the excluded, as well as



safeguarding creation.

3. Our proposal

This is why we propose integral ecology to restore ethics to the negotiations taking place here in Bethlehem. We ask that the issue of energy transition not be separated from its impact on employment, health and social justice. We ask that forest conservation be linked to the rights of the communities that live there and the valuing of the traditional knowledge of indigenous and native peoples. This is what we understand by equity, justice and protection.

We assert that the debate on climate finance must be completely rethought. For us, the ecological debt that we are calling for to be cancelled during this jubilee year should not be considered charity. It is a matter of renouncing a burden that has been incurred over a long period of history, including through trade imbalances between countries in the South and countries in the North for the delivery of natural resources, which have had undeniable human and environmental consequences. The debate on climate debt should be linked to restorative justice. It is a political and moral duty of the countries of the North and requires a change in the narrative on debt and the question of mutual responsibility.

Conclusion

Our cry of distress is to remind everyone that our current decisions have an impact on future generations because the climate crisis will not wait. It is imperative to act

now. We cannot behave as if we are the last inhabitants of the planet. That is why we are calling for justice for future generations. They too have the right to find a habitable planet.

The coalition of churches in the global South should be seen as a first step. We call for a historic coalition with all other religions, civil society actors, indigenous peoples, and multiple actors from countries in the South as well as those in the North.

Let us therefore have the prophetic courage to move away from short-term solutions and financial promises that do not respond to the challenges of adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage.

We demand that countries implement comprehensive policies that recognise the interconnections between migration and climate change, drought, biodiversity collapse, crop failures and conflicts, because, as Pope Francis so aptly put it, ‘everything is connected’ (LS No. 137).

The appeal of the Churches of the Global South is therefore a call for a radical paradigm shift in the fight against climate change. This is what we call ‘ecological conversion’, a transformation and a true resistance to shortcuts and false solutions.

Thank you.

+ **Fridolin Besungu Cardinal Ambongo**
Archbishop of Kinshasa, DR Congo
President of SECAM

END-OF-YEAR RETREAT: A BREAK FOR RENEWAL AND HOPE



Meditation during the retreat

The Secretariat staff of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) held on November 26, 2025, their annual End-of-Year Retreat, a day of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal held at Mary Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Airport West, Accra, in Ghana. Twelve members of the Secretariat participated, including the Secretary General, Rev. Fr. Rafael Simbine Junior, and the Deputy Secretaries General.

This End-of-year's retreat centered on the theme "He has delivered us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son..." (Col 1:13). The reflections were led by Rev. Fr. Aaron Agbeshie Agorsor of the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra, who offered two conferences aimed at deepening participants' understanding of God's saving love.

In his first presentation, "Created, Captured, Rescued and Response," Fr. Aaron traced the Christian story of creation, humanity's fall, and God's ongoing mission of redemption. He described the Christian life as a "warfare," yet one anchored in divine love. "Our existence is a beautiful love

story," he said, adding that God's love for humanity is "reckless" in its generosity. He reminded participants that the coming of Christ, celebrated at Christmas, signifies God entering the battle Himself to rescue humanity from the power of evil.

His second conference, "Unshakable Hope in the Midst of the Storm," emphasized perseverance. Drawing from Romans 5, he encouraged the faithful to remain steadfast: "Never give up hope. Take courage to rise after each fall. Do not believe the lie of the devil." Confession, he added, is a powerful path back to God: "Let us celebrate our strength through confession."

Following moments of silent reflection, the group proceeded to the Holy Spirit Cathedral for a penitential service, Stations of the Cross, passage through the Holy Door, and a concluding Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Michael Dziwornu Etsey.

The retreat offered SECAM staff a moment of deep spiritual renewal and a blessed opportunity to celebrate together the Holy Year of Jubilee on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope".

Charles Ayetan

JUSTICE, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

COP30 IN BRAZIL: CATHOLIC LEADERS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH PRESENT CLIMATE JUSTICE APPEAL AT UN PAVILION



The Position of the Catholic Church at the COP30 was highly appreciated

Representatives of the Catholic Church of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, presented, at the UN Pavilion, the [document](#) “A call for Climate Justice and the Common Home: Ecological Conversion, Transformation and Resistance to false solutions”. This presentation took place during the COP30, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which took place in Belém, Brazil from 10 to 21 November 2025.

The text, delivered to the United Nations (UN), rejects “green capitalism”, demands that rich nations pay off their ecological debt and calls for concrete actions to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

President of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM), Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo of the Democratic Republic of Congo has reaffirmed that the climate crisis needs a comprehensive solution, and that indigenous and traditional peoples must be included in decisions on forest protection. He called for ethics in the COP30 negotiations and review of the

ecological debt between the global North and South.

Cardinal Jaime Spengler, President of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), stressed that “the Earth is not a mere resource to be exploited, but a living organism that needs to be listened to.” He warned of the risk of a climate collapse and advocated networks of solidarity and ethical development, based on trust and common responsibility.

President of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences (FABC), Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão of India advocated for fair funding for poorer countries hit by the crisis. “COP30 needs to generate a turning point, not just an event,” he stated.

In the end, the cardinals delivered the document to the UN representative Gustavo Mañez, along with the base text of the 2025 Fraternity Campaign – “Fraternity and Integral Ecology”, reaffirming the Church’s commitment to climate justice and the common home.



Meeting with Catholic Actors during the COP30

This joint appeal is addressed to government leaders and their representatives, urging them “to work for an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement for the benefit of people and the planet”.

The appeal also calls on the Church and the general public to live out the “ecological conversion” (Pope Francis) and to address “wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the fear of difference, and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth’s resources and marginalises the poorest” (Pope Leo XIV).

The Catholic Church present in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, inspired both by the legacy of Pope Francis and his *Laudato Si’* and *Laudate Deum*, and by Pope Leo XIV’s call to live an integral ecology with justice, peace and prophetic courage, offers this document as an expression of its unwavering commitment to human dignity, peace, the preferential option for the impoverished, climate and social-ecological.

SECAM News

SECAM URGES INCLUSIVE, PEOPLE-CENTERED APPROACH AT 7TH AU-EU SUMMIT IN LUANDA



As African and European leaders gather in Luanda for the 7th African Union-European Union Summit, the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) has issued a strong appeal for inclusion, historical honesty, and

justice at a decisive moment for Africa-Europe relations.

In a [press statement](#) released on November 20, SECAM said the Church feels compelled to speak out as “a moral voice rooted in the daily realities of African



Catholic Actors in Luanda for this event

communities.” With its extensive network of schools, clinics, parishes, universities and social outreach programs, the Church shared that it witnesses firsthand the hopes and anxieties of millions of Africans, especially the most vulnerable.

The statement places special emphasis on the significance of 2025, declared by the African Union as the Year of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent. The upcoming Decade of Reparations (2026-2036), together with the global calls for ecological justice raised at COP30 in Belém, make this year’s AU-EU gathering particularly critical. SECAM stressed that the Summit must be a forum not only for negotiation but also for “listening, remembering, and addressing long-standing injustices.”

A major concern raised by the bishops is what they describe as “severe restrictions” on the participation of African civil society organizations. SECAM noted that numerous local groups, including Church-linked humanitarian networks, women’s and youth movements, farmer associations, and Indigenous organizations, were excluded from the official Summit, even when willing to self-finance their presence. The exclusion, they argue, undermines the

credibility of a summit intended to shape Africa’s future.

In response, SECAM and other civil society groups convened a Parallel Peoples’ Summit at the Catholic University of Angola on 19-20 November. SECAM emphasized that this alternative gathering is not an act of protest but a necessary platform in the face of “opaque and technocratic processes” in the official Summit.

The bishops also called for renewed commitment to reparatory, economic, and ecological justice, urging EU leaders to acknowledge the lingering effects of the Transatlantic slave trade, colonialism, and extractive economic systems. They insisted that development models must prioritize people over geopolitical interests and that Africa’s sovereignty, of both its nations and its citizen, must be respected.

SECAM concluded with a message of hope, expressing readiness to support an AU-EU partnership rooted in inclusion, transparency, and human dignity. Only such a partnership, they said, can heal historical wounds and lay the foundation for a just and peaceful future.

SECAM News

GREAT LAKES: CONSOLIDATING PEACE TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION



In Goma and Bujumbura, the Association of Episcopal Conferences of Central Africa (ACEAC) held two workshops from 16 to 19 and 21 to 24 November 2025 to evaluate the Peace Groups set up in 2024.

Women from the dioceses of Goma, Bukavu, Uvira, Cyangugu, Nyundo, Bujumbura and Bubanza gathered to examine the impact of these mechanisms on the ground. Discussions focused on the involvement of local structures, the participation of beneficiaries, the adequacy of actions to the needs of communities and observable transformations.

At the end of the workshops, a balanced assessment was made: encouraging results and promising initiatives, but also challenges to be addressed, including the sustainability of the mechanisms, community mobilisation and coordination between actors. The participants made several recommendations to strengthen the strategy and encourage more active citizen participation. For

ACEAC, these meetings confirm its desire to establish mechanisms for lasting peace that are adapted to local realities.

Strengthening the role of religious actors

In the same vein, in Kigali on 10-11 November, priests and religious men and women from Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo gathered as part of the AMANI KWETU (Peace in our homes) project. Organised by the Episcopal Justice and Peace Commission of Rwanda and supported by Trôcaire, this workshop provided an opportunity to revisit the complex history of the region and reflect on how certain discourses fuel identity tensions. Participants identified the need to better train religious actors so that they can become enlightened agents of peace within their communities.

Young people and women: key actors in reconciliation

At the same time, Bujumbura hosted a regional workshop on 24-25 November, bringing together young people and women from Burundi, Rwanda and the



Workshop for religious leaders in Kigali, organised by the Justice and Peace Commission

DRC. Organised by the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace in Burundi, it aimed to strengthen the role of these actors in promoting social cohesion. ‘Our future depends on those who refuse to give in to fear and choose dialogue,’ said one young participant. The 80 participants committed to creating a dynamic network of cooperation for reconciliation and social cohesion in the region.

These initiatives demonstrate that peace in the Great Lakes region must be built within communities, thanks to the daily commitment of those who live the realities of the region. Women, young people and religious actors show that peace is a concrete work of dialogue, reconciliation and solidarity. Each meeting, each workshop, each exchange becomes an opportunity to transform the wounds of the past into learning, fear into courage and mistrust into shared trust.

By joining forces, these local actors are helping to forge strong links between communities often separated by physical borders or historical traumas. They show that reconciliation is not an abstract concept: it is lived out in daily initiatives, in the sharing of experiences, in the training and support of populations, and in openness to young people and women, who are often vectors of social innovation and dialogue.

ACEAC strongly emphasises that when communities are fully committed, peace ceases to be a distant ideal and becomes a concrete reality capable of transforming hearts. These actions reflect a deep conviction: only peace that is rooted in local realities and supported by the inhabitants themselves can be sustainable. And it is by giving women, young people and religious actors the means to act that the region can hope to build a more peaceful, united and fraternal future.

ACEAC Communication



Workshop for young people and women in Bujumbura, organised by the Justice and Peace Commission

SUDAN CRISIS: SOLIDARITY ORGANISED IN CHAD



A Sudanese woman who fled El-Fasher walks past tents at a camp for displaced people (AFP/licensors)

As war continues in Sudan, tens of thousands of refugees are crossing the border into Chad to escape the violence. In the Apostolic Vicariate of Mongo, Chad, Italian missionary Fabio Mussi, from the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions, reports on an alarming humanitarian situation but also on local initiatives that are attempting to restore hope and autonomy to these Sudanese refugees.

Since April 2023, Sudan has been facing a fierce power struggle between the army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This conflict has worsened in recent weeks, with the fall of the city of El-Fasher, the army's last stronghold in Darfur, to the paramilitaries at the end of October. On 6 November, the RSF said it supported an international proposal for a humanitarian truce, but nevertheless intensified its offensive in the large and strategic central region of Kordofan.

According to UN agencies, the conflict in Sudan has so far claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced nearly 12 million people. Despite the prospect

of a US-brokered ceasefire, war continues to ravage Sudan, forcing hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee to neighbouring countries.

Tensions at the border in Chad

In eastern Chad, for example, 'in the last two months alone, around 200,000 Sudanese have crossed the border,' says Fabio Mussi. This 'Church of the Borders' has become one of the main entry points in Chad for refugees fleeing the fighting around El-Fasher. 'Most are women, children and elderly people. They arrive completely destitute, sometimes after several days of walking. Their first concern is to find shelter and food,' explains Brother Mussi.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Chad now hosts more than one million Sudanese refugees, a number that continues to grow as the war drags on.

Augustine Asta (Vaticannews)

CATHOLIC YOUTH TRAINING IN MEDIA



Launch of the third training course for young people by the Episcopal Media Commission

Under the patronage of Patriarch Anba Ibrahim Ishaq, and under the supervision of His Eminence Anba Bakhoum, Patriarchal Vicar for Patriarchal Diocesan Affairs, and Head of the Episcopal Committee for Information, at the Catholic Church in Egypt, the Committee organized the third season of the training of Catholic Youth (CYF), at St. Stephen's Hall, in the Dome Gardens.

The training activities was held from October 18 to November 8, and included various lectures on "Artificial Intelligence and its Relations with the Requirements of the Modern Labor Market".

The Opening session began with an introductory brief about the Catholic Media Office in Egypt, its activities and services, presented by Mrs. Mai Salib, Training Officer at the Episcopal

Committee for Media, and her assistant team.

This was followed by a lecture by Ms. Madonna Milad, a certified trainer in e-marketing, on "The Concept and Tools of Artificial Intelligence".

Father Paul Babawi, Deputy Pastor of the Church of Our Lady and St. Stephen in Shubra El Khaimah, also delivered another lecture entitled "How to be a Free Christian?"

At this session, the Nile Valley Scouts, the fourth group, organized some entertainment paragraphs for the participants in the training.

Many other sessions and workshops contributed to strengthen the participants of this third season of the training of Catholic Youth.

Lemessenger-online.com

Most Rev. Claudio Lurati : Five Years of Episcopal Ordination



The Latin Church in Egypt celebrated, on October 30th, 2025, the fifth anniversary of the ordination of the Apostolic Vicar, Most Rev. Claudio Lurati.

In a letter in Italian, the members of the Latin Church renewed their gratitude to Archbishop Lurati, whose ministry shows the Father's merciful and friendly face, expressing their prayers, so that God may continue to inspire him in his mission.

“WHEN ONE MEMBER SUFFERS, WE ALL SUFFER,” AMECEA’S SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO TANZANIA BISHOPS



Most Rev. Charles Sampa Kasonde, Bishop of Solwezi Diocese (Zambia)/AMECEA

Catholic Bishops of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA), have issued a solidarity message to the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), following deadly violence and protests that erupted after the nation’s General Elections, that was held on October 29.

In a message signed by the AMECEA Chairman, Bishop Charles Sampa Kasonde of Solwezi Diocese, Zambia, the Eastern Africa Bishops underscored the profound interconnectedness of the African faithful, saying, “When one member suffers, we all suffer together.” This phrase highlights the regional church’s commitment to walking with Tanzania during what it calls an “extraordinarily difficult and painful moment.”

The statement dated Wednesday, November 12, detailed the deep grief felt by the AMECEA bishops over the post-election violent protests that resulted in the loss of precious lives, numerous injuries, and widespread suffering.

“The recent tragic events following the General Elections on October 29, 2025, have deeply grieved us all,” the message stated as the Bishops commended the

souls of the dead to the Almighty and offered prayers for all who are recovering from physical and emotional injuries, including those who are still missing or traumatized.

Acknowledging Tanzania’s long-held reputation as a regional beacon of stability and peaceful coexistence, the Bishops noted that the current crisis in Tanzania threatens the “noble legacy and the very fabric of national unity.”

Addressing the Tanzanian Catholic leadership, the AMECEA chairman assured them of unwavering solidarity and called upon TEC members to continue their vital role in the country.

“Continue to be prophetic voices for truth, justice, and reconciliation in your country. Continue to be ministers of comfort to the suffering, advocates for the voiceless,” Bishop Kasonde highlighted in the statement and added, “Continue to be beacons of hope in the darkness.”

The Bishops further prayed that God would strengthen the people of God and that the Holy Spirit would guide all Tanzanians toward the paths of peace, justice, and reconciliation.

*Sr. Jecinter Antoinette Okoth
(AMECEA)*

MAURITIUS: ELDERS' JUBILEE CELEBRATES MEMORY, WISDOM AND SOLIDARITY



The Exhibition tracing the history of the parish, by the Elders.

From 16 to 23 November, the parish of Sacré-Cœur in Rivière des Anguilles celebrated the Jubilee of the Elders, a week dedicated to honouring those who have shaped the family, ecclesial and social life of the community.

At the opening, Father Georgy Kenny invited the faithful to give thanks 'for those who have built our families, our Church and our country.' He recalled the essential role of seniors, bearers of faith, wisdom and experience capable of enlightening youth. Faced with the challenges of ageing - loneliness, frailty, feelings of isolation - he encouraged everyone to give them back a central place in society. "The elderly are a sign of hope for us. But are we also a sign of hope for them?" asked the 61-year-old priest, who has been in the priesthood for 29 years.

Throughout the week, the parish offered testimonials, knowledge-sharing workshops, fraternal gatherings and conferences on the protection of the elderly, led by the police and social security services. The objective is clear:

to build bridges between generations and combat isolation.

Several Eucharistic celebrations were held in honour of the elderly in the various communities of the parish, presided over by Fathers Yannick Casquette, Lovanirina Henintsoa Rakotondravao and Charles Gambo Ocheje, among others.

There were also various socio-cultural activities such as traditional games, exhibitions tracing the history of the parish, workshops on health and safety for the elderly, etc.

The closing Mass of the Jubilee for the elderly was celebrated on 23rd November, preceded the day before by a listening session in the morning and a festive evening hosted by the elderly themselves, in a spirit of joy, hope and gratitude.

***SECAM News,
with the Diocese of Port Louis***

BISHOPS CALL FOR THE ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION



Members of the Episcopal Conference of Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau.

The bishops of the Episcopal Conference of Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau met from 10 to 18 November 2025 in Kédougou, in the diocese of Tambacounda in Senegal, for their annual session, during which they addressed several issues. The bishops urged the eradication of corruption and called on everyone to be artisan of peace and hope.

In their final communiqué, the 13 cardinals, archbishops and bishops of the Episcopal Conference of the four countries made urgent appeals to government leaders, urging them to greater transparency in the management of natural resources for the greater good of the people.

They therefore stressed the urgent need to fight effectively to eradicate corruption and poverty and reduce insecurity and unemployment, especially among young people. The prelates called on political leaders to honour their commitments.

The bishops denounce the manipulation of consciences

In addition, the bishops denounced all forms of violence and the manipulation of consciences.

On the security front, they expressed their deep concern and alerted their authorities to the growing insecurity that is reaching worrying proportions, particularly the phenomenon of terrorism, which threatens several countries. Similarly, they remain concerned about the tragedy of irregular immigration with its many victims, most of whom are young people.

Faced with the many social tensions that paralyse fraternal coexistence between people of the same state, the same people or the same family, the prelates remind all Christians of their duty to be peacemakers, prophets of hope and instruments of reconciliation.

Finally, concerning the liturgical life of their respective Churches, the prelates drafted their exhortation for Lent 2026 on the theme: 'Building an autonomous synodal Church at the service of the common good for the promotion of justice and peace'.

Concluding their communiqué, they implored God's grace and blessing on their countries and on all of West Africa.

*SECAM News, with
Françoise Niamien (Vaticannews)*

CARDINAL ROMERO'S PASTORAL VISIT TO MARRAKECH



Cardinal Cristóbal López Romero surrounded by the faithful

From 13 to 16 November, the parish of Saints Martyrs in Marrakech welcomed Cardinal Cristóbal López Romero, Archbishop of Rabat, for a pastoral visit as part of his mission to reach out to the diocese. This trip allowed the prelate to meet with the local Christian community, listen to their concerns and support pastoral initiatives.

Upon his arrival, the Cardinal was accompanied by Franciscan friars, who were constantly present throughout his stay. The first day was marked by a series of meetings focused on interreligious dialogue: a meeting with the imam of the neighbouring mosque, exchanges with representatives of the Jewish community and Protestant churches, as well as visits to administrative and security authorities. These moments illustrated the peaceful coexistence that characterises Marrakech and the importance of dialogue at the heart of the Church's mission in Morocco.

The following days were devoted to listening to the parish community: religious men and women, group leaders, faithful involved in catechesis,

choirs, liturgy, accompaniment of migrants and charitable works. The Cardinal sought to understand the concrete experiences of the parishioners and to encourage their commitment, recalling that the Christian mission 'begins with the call of Christ and is oriented towards the Kingdom of God.'

On Saturday 15 November, a lengthy discussion allowed the faithful to address issues related to the life of the universal Church, the priorities of the diocese and the mission of Catholics in a predominantly Muslim country.

The visit concluded on Sunday with the celebration of two Sunday Masses, followed by a stop in Tazert with the Franciscan Sisters. This pastoral visit strengthens the bonds between the archbishop and the Christian community and reaffirms the Church's vocation in Morocco to serve, dialogue and bear witness in fraternity.

*SECAM News,
with Joakim Lurhatwa*

SACBC JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION COMMENDS G20 RESOLUTIONS



Members of the SACBC Justice and Peace Commission at the G20 Summit 2025

The Justice and Peace Commission of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) has welcomed and commended the key resolutions emerging from the recent G20 Leaders' Summit, recognising their alignment with long-standing calls for global justice, solidarity, and inclusive development.

Held at the Nasrec Expo Centre under the theme 'Solidarity, Sustainability and Equality', the 22 to 23 November summit was attended by heads of state and government from across the G20 bloc, except the incoming G20 Presidency, the United States of America.

In a declaration shared with the SACBC communication office, the Chairperson of the SACBC Social Action Department and Liaison Bishop for the Justice and Peace Commission notes with appreciation the strong reaffirmation of multilateral cooperation by G20 leaders.

Progress on Debt Sustainability

Bishop Thulani Victor Mbuyisa said, "We welcome the renewed call for global partnership and the pledge to leave no person, no community, and no country behind, especially at a time when the world faces deep inequality and economic uncertainty."

He further commended the G20's renewed support for the Common Framework for debt treatment. "We

commend the G20's support for debt transparency, fair debt treatment, and stronger debt management capacity for indebted nations. These steps respond directly to the calls of faith leaders, including the SACBC," he said.

The Chairperson of the SACBC Justice and Peace Commission recalled that these issues featured prominently in the petitions submitted to Minister Ronald Lamola ahead of the G20 Summit, as part of a coordinated effort by faith leaders, led by the SACBC.

Addressing Inequality and Promoting Inclusive Development

The Bishop also acknowledged the G20's recognition of deep inequalities both within and between countries, and welcomed "the focus on inclusive industrialisation, women's economic empowerment, financial inclusion, and reducing inequality between and within nations."

Finally, Bishop Mbuyisa commended South Africa for successfully hosting the first G20 Leaders' Summit on African soil, "marking a significant moment for Africa's voice in global affairs."

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May this Advent Season be a Time of Deep Hope, Peaceful Expectation, and Renewed Spiritual Strength.

