



# NIREC

Nigeria Inter-Religious Council

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## FOURTH QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE NIGERIA INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (NIREC) HELD AT REIZ CONTINENTAL HOTEL, ABUJA, FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> TO 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

### COMMUNIQUÉ

#### PREAMBLE

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC), under the leadership of the Co-chairmen, His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto and President-General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, CFR, mni, and the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), His Eminence, Rev. Dr. Samson Olasupo Ayokunle, held its Fourth Quarterly Meeting at Reiz Continental Hotel, Abuja, from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of December, 2021. The theme of the Meeting, which was declared open by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr. Boss Gida Mustapha, was “NIREC, Security Agencies and Peace in Nigeria”.

The opening ceremony was attended by the representatives of the Chief of Defence Staff, General Lucky Irabor; the Director General of the Department of State Services, Yusuf Magaji Bichi; the Inspector-General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba; as well as diplomats, senior government functionaries, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), members of NIREC, the media and many other dignitaries.

Apart from the incisive opening remarks given by the Co-chairmen of NIREC, a thought-provoking and deeply engaging presentation was made by the former Chief of Defence Staff, General Martin L. Agwai, Rtd, CFR, on the theme of the Meeting. The well applauded presentation highlighted the state of the nation with regard to security and development while warning the Government in particular and Nigerians in general of the dire consequences of not addressing the contentious issues that constitute the reality of today's Nigeria.

#### RESOLUTIONS

After a deep reflection and extensive deliberations on the State of the Nation with respect to issues that are very relevant to the peace and security of Nigerians, NIREC unanimously:

1. **appreciated** the Nigerian military and security agencies for the sacrifices they are making in making Nigeria peaceful, secure and safe even if there is still a long way to go;
2. **urged** the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, to do more to assure Nigerians that their security cum wellbeing is paramount to his government by doubling efforts in

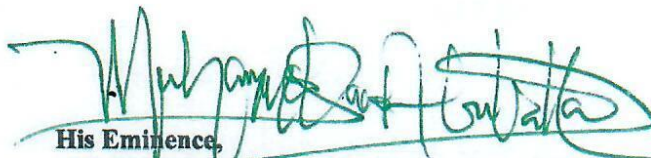
- protecting Nigerians from the evils of terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, ritual killing and other vices ravaging the country;
3. **implored** Nigerians to always respect the feelings of one another, despite their ethnic, religious and political differences, as no one can guarantee the security and safety of Nigerians apart from Nigerians;
  4. **noted** that the root of the security and development challenges confronting Nigeria lies in lack of good governance and that Government at all levels should be more deliberate in delivering the dividends of democracy to people instead of the burgeoning deficits of democracy being experienced by the vast majority;
  5. **stressed** that as the power of the people is stronger than the people in power, Government should consult widely and seek the buy-in of stakeholders in the Nigerian project, including Traditional and Religious leaders, before taking decisions that will affect the living conditions of millions of Nigerians, such as the planned removal of oil subsidy;
  6. **emphasised** that the Nigerian military and security agencies should intensify intelligence gathering and inter-agency synergy as a way of defeating the monster of insecurity threatening Nigeria;
  7. **charged** the Nigerian military and security agencies to be introspective and work harder on flushing out the criminals among them in order to make more progress in prosecuting the war against terrorists, bandits, kidnappers, anarchists and other criminals that are making life Hobbesian (i.e. solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short) for Nigerians;
  8. **canvassed** more funding for the military and security agencies to procure necessary weaponry and other hardware to prosecute the war against insecurity in Nigeria so that they will always have an upper hand in terms of arms and munitions while confronting the criminal enemies of state;
  9. **demanded** that the Federal Government employ more youth in the military and security agencies as well as enhance the security architecture of the country in order to stamp out terrorism, banditry and all forms of crimes and criminality in Nigeria;
  10. **reiterated** that as development without security is not possible and security without development is temporary, Government should do more by securing the future of millions of Nigerians through job creation and developmental projects;
  11. **asserted** that as the most expensive peace is less costly than the cheapest war, Government should invest more in security which encompasses equity, fairness and inclusiveness in the polity;
  12. **tasked** the Government fix the refineries and save the huge cost being expended on importing finished petroleum products as Nigeria is the only oil-producing country in the world without a functional refinery;
  13. **condemned** the actions of the UK, Canada and their allies against Nigeria regarding putting Nigeria on their travel red lists on the outbreak of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 as unfortunate, discriminatory, unscientific and vicious;
  14. **resolved** to immediately engage with the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the Federal Government as a way addressing the issues in contention and averting another round of strike that would cripple the Nigerian university system further;
  15. **deplored** the state of education in Nigeria where students, aided and abetted by schools and parents, engage in examination malpractice thereby undermining the significance of education as the vaccine of violence;

16. **denounced** the attitude of Nigerians who fraudulently obtain COVID-19 vaccination certificate without being vaccinated while stressing that such attitude constitutes a serious threat not only to the perpetrators but also to the society which is endangered further;
17. **enjoined** Government to seek more creative ways of encouraging Nigerians to be vaccinated rather than appearing to force them in order to avert the circumvention of the protocols and the rising cases of obtaining certificates without vaccination;
18. **canvassed** blocking the internal and external sources of funding for terrorists, anarchists and criminals through diligent intelligence gathering and close monitoring of suspicious cash flows and financial transactions;
19. **called** for judicial reform that would institutionalise merit and expeditious dispensation of justice without fear or favour as justice delayed is justice denied;
20. **tasked** government at all levels to invest in mass transportation which will reduce unemployment and ameliorate the difficulties being faced by Nigerians in commuting from one place to another; and
21. **prayed** for God's mercy on Nigeria so that Nigerians would be able to overcome the current security challenges and gross violations of rights that are stifling the hope of the youth and making young people more desperate.


#### APPRECIATION

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) appreciates the immense support and contributions of the Federal Government under President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, towards the success of the meeting. The Council is especially grateful to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Gida Mustapha, for supporting NIREC in many ways including participating in the opening ceremonies of its quarterly meetings.


NIREC is also grateful to the former Chief of Defence Staff, General Martin L. Agwai, for his masterful presentation at the opening session and thankful to all the dignitaries and participants who contributed to the success of the Meeting.



His Eminence,  
**Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar**, CFR, mni  
The Sultan of Sokoto/ President General,  
Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and  
Co-Chairman, NIREC)



His Eminence,  
**Rev. Dr. Samson O. A. Ayokunle**  
President, Christian Association of  
Nigeria (CAN) and Co-Chairman, NIREC



**Fr. Prof. Cornelius A. Omonokhua**  
Executive Secretary, NIREC