



Adresse Postale : 8395 Lomé – TOGO
Tél. (228) 221.29.37 Fax : (228) 222.00.26
Email : secaf@togo-imet.com
Internet : www.caritas-africa.org
Comptes bancaires: BTCI 9030 63094 01 71
UTB 31 004224 1 004 0 00

6 December 2007

Dear Members and Partners of Caritas Africa,

As we approach Christmas, Caritas Africa conveys to you the best wishes for a very Happy and Merry Christmas and a fruitful 2008 filled with God's Blessings.

As we conclude this year, we are gathered here in Rome for the EXCO meeting of CI representing the Africa Region, hence this message from Rome.

We thank all of you, dear brothers and sisters, for the good work you have accomplished this year in your respective countries.

In 2007, our Region was once again confronted with major emergencies in various countries and zones: the ongoing crisis in Darfur and in fact in the whole of Sudan; the collapse of the Zimbabwean economy and the violation of human rights which have left so many people without food, health care etc.; the escalation of violence that continues to affect the Eastern part of the DRC, the floods in Uganda, Togo and Ghana; the terrible conditions of displaced people in the Central African Republic and Chad.

Thank you again for what you have done to alleviate the sufferings of our brothers and sisters affected by those crises. I extend my thanks and congratulations to the MOs of our Confederation for their support in our unfortunate situation: those directly involved in Darfur or supporting the CI program there, those who are responding to the Emergency Appeals for Zimbabwe, Eastern Congo and Uganda; those who are contributing to the reconstruction of Liberia and Sierra Leone; the members of the Sahel Working Group who are doing their utmost to set up mechanisms aimed at preventing the recurrent food crisis in this zone.

We thank those who are accompanying Caritas Africa MOs in building their capacity.

We are grateful to those who have assisted Caritas Africa in the development of its Operational Plan and those who are ready to support its implementation.

We encourage you to continue the necessary dialogue with all our partners at national and regional levels in order to develop a common vision, a mutual understanding to embark, wherever possible, on joint initiatives for Humanitarian Response, Integral Human Development, Peace Building and Reconciliation, Climate Change, Fighting against Trafficking, combating the HIV-Aid Pandemic, etc.

The Regional Team of Caritas Africa which is composed of myself, our Regional Coordinator Jacques Dinan, our Regional representative in Nairobi, Mrs Margaret Mwaniki and all the Zone Coordinators is committed to intensify animation and institutional cooperation during this mandate. We hope that this will strengthen the ownership of Caritas and its action on all levels.



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The Regional Team will ensure that you are well represented in all regional and international fora, so that the voice of Caritas Africa be heard and your contribution to the development and promotion of social justice on our continent is recognised and valued.

The Regional Team counts on your support and promises to be accountable to you. We are determined to move ahead and to keep you informed of concrete achievements as well as possible obstacles and challenges that need to be addressed.

We pray the Good Lord to bless you all and to bless the work of our minds and hands for the good of the poor whom we are mandated to serve.

Let us continue to witness Love and Charity and building peace wherever we are.

Once again, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cyprian K. Lwanga", with a small cross symbol to the left.

+ Cyprian K. Lwanga
President
CARITAS AFRICA

