

**“Faith, Ethnicity, and Governance:
Coexistence Sensitive Policy and
Partnerships in Nigeria”
Seminar
22 January 2009
Rockview Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria**

SEMINAR AIMS

- (1) To identify specific government policies and faith-based civil society activities that have positively or negatively impacted inter-faith coexistence in Nigeria and surface specific reasons why these efforts have had the impact they have had;
- (2) To identify policy goals around social inclusion for the Nigerian government as well as advocacy objectives for faith-based CSOs that can contribute to positive coexistence and broaden all faiths’ sense of social inclusion.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- (1) A set of social inclusion policy goals with identified mechanisms for implementation and a defined role for CSOs, religious and traditional leaders, and government officials and legislators in advocating for the implementation of those goals
- (2) Summary report of seminar discussion and findings

Seminar Agenda

8:45-9:45 Registration (guests will pick up name tags, name tents and information packet)

9:45-10:30 Remarks

- Welcome Remarks from CDD (Dr. Kole Shetima)
- Opening Remarks from Umass Boston (Dr. Darren Kew)
- Remarks from CI including background, overview of the seminar's agenda, objectives and expectations, overview of coexistence and complementarity (John Moore)

Session One

10:30-11:45 Panel Discussion: Faiths/CSO perspectives on the challenges and opportunities regarding inter-faith conflict and public policy in Nigeria

- Panelist will summarize the state of inter-faith coexist in Nigeria. Specifically, they will address such questions as: What are the underlying causes of inter-faith conflict in Nigeria?; What public policies affecting inter-faith conflict should be augmented and which policies need to be changed, and why?; and how can faith communities and government work together to improve the ability of faith-communities to coexist? To what extent do CSOs activities model inter-faith coexistence?
- Panelists: His Excellency Bishop Bonet, Mr. Kunle Fagbemi, Dr. Mustapha Hussain Ismail , Mrs. Saudatu Mahdi.
- Questions/Comments/Responses/Discussion

Chair: Dr. Kole Shetima

11:45-12:00 Tea Break

Session Two

12:00-1:30 Panel Discussion: Government perspectives on the challenges and opportunities regarding inter-faith conflict and public policy in Nigeria

- Panelist will summarize the state of government policies that impact interfaith conflict in Nigeria. Specifically, they will address such questions as: What government policies help inter-faith conflict in Nigeria?; What policies should be augmented and which policies need to be changed, and why?; Are there new policies that should be considered?; how can faith communities and government work together to improve the ability of faith-communities to coexist? Policies to consider may include policies regulating education, commerce, healthcare, national holidays, national language, etc.
- Panelists: Mr. Chom Bagu, Mr. Emma Ezeazu, Honourable Beni Lar, Mr. Alimigbe Francis O.I.
- Questions/Comments/Responses/Discussion

Chair: Dr. Sam Amadi

1:30-2:30 Lunch

- Featuring a presentation by Dr. Kole Shetima of the Centre for Democracy and Development on the intersection of inter-faith conflict and governance in Nigeria and thoughts on moving forward towards coexistence of the communities.

Session Three

2:30-2:40 Policy Challenges and Opportunities Thematic Summary

- A summary of the main points and themes that emerged during the morning discussions.

2:40-4:15 Small Group Work: Proposals for Moving Forward

In self-selected teams, each group will address:

- Based on discussions, what are *specific* governmental or organizational actions or policies that can be implemented to more positively and effectively promote inter-faith coexistence in Nigeria? In the short-term and in-the-long term?
- Groups should be able to answer what challenge a proposed policy addresses and how that government policy or organizational action will positively address that challenge and contribute to enhancing interfaith coexistence

4:15-4:45 Plenary: Reporting Back

- Presentation of policy recommendations
- Response and discussion to policy recommendation

4:45-5:00 Conclusion