



### Background

The Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) is dedicated to promote within the churches in Africa

1. Faithful Christian witness to the Gospel in an interfaith environment of Christians and Muslims.
2. Constructive engagement with Muslims for peace and peaceful co-existence for the holistic development of the human person

### Christian witness

PROCMURA believes that Christian witness is an integral part of Christian identity and in this sense obligatory. It emphasises that the Church in its calling to bear witness to Jesus Christ in the world, should take context seriously as an indispensable requirement for the Christian presence in an interfaith environment.

To this end PROCMURA advocates:

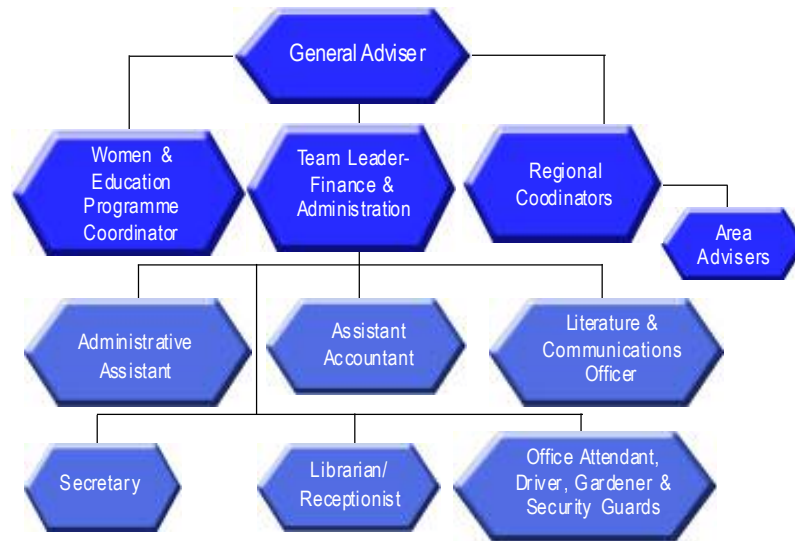
- That the Church in a Muslim environment should seek to come to a deeper understanding of her Muslim neighbours and their religion, Islam;
- That understanding implies not only a fair and objective knowledge of what Muslims believe and practice, but also a respectful and empathetic attitude towards Muslims as fellow human beings;
- That because of the common humanity Christians share with Muslims, the Gospel has to be communicated and interpreted to them lest it be obscured by the negative historical and contemporary encounters between adherents of the two faiths;
- That such interpretation must be faithful in obedience to God; and not compromise under the pretext of promoting peaceful co-existence or aggressive and polemical under the guise of proclamation.

### Constructive engagement for peace

PROCMURA advocates that in Christian-Muslim relations the Church should:

- Work towards the promotion of the spirit of good neighbourliness, mutual respect and tolerance;
- Constructively engage with the Muslim Communities to ensure that conflicts between Christians and Muslims are addressed in a non-violent manner;
- In its search for peace and peaceful co-existence with Muslims look up to Christ who is Himself the "Prince of Peace".

### The General Secretariat



PROCMURA operates with a general secretariat based at its Central Office in Nairobi, Kenya. The General Adviser heads the General Secretariat. Working with him are two Executive Officers: a Team leader; Finance and Administration, and a Women and Education Programme Coordinator in charge of issues of particular interest and concern to women in Christian-Muslim relations. Other members of staff include a Literature and Communications Officer in charge of publicity, an Administrative Assistant, an Assistant Accountant, a Secretary, a Librarian/Receptionist and other Auxiliary Staff.



The General Adviser is the overall overseer for the implementation of PROCMURA's programmes. There are three Regional Coordinators for Francophone West Africa Region, Anglophone West Africa Region, and East and Southern Africa Region. The Regional Coordinators co-ordinate the activities of Area Advisers in twenty Area Committees of the Programme, in eighteen countries

### Governance of PROCMURA

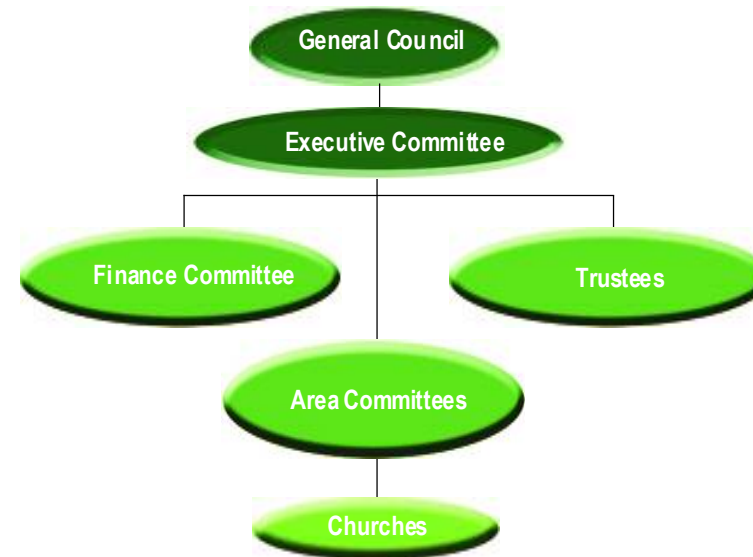
The Policy-making body of PROCMURA is the General Council, which meets every four years. It takes the overall responsibility for the life and work of the Programme. It receives reports from the various Committees, assesses the progress of the work, identifies new challenges and makes recommendations for facing up to such challenges.

The Executive Committee meets once a year to receive reports from the Central and Regional Staff of the Programme.



Members of the General Council 2003

Apart from the General Council and Executive Committee, there are also a number of honorary committees and groups of resource persons who are called upon occasionally to perform special functions.



### Achievements of the Programme so far

Throughout its lifespan, the Programme has:

- Pioneered the dissemination of information on Islam and Christian-Muslim relations in Africa to churches and mission organisations in Africa;
- Initiated grassroots ministry of faithful and responsible Christian witness and Christian collaboration with Muslims to work for peace and peaceful co-existence;
- Directly and indirectly influenced Christian-Muslim co-operation on matters of mutual interest and concern;
- Created forums for Christian-Muslim discussions (dialogue) where conflict between the two communities arises;
- Involved in peace initiatives (as for example the Sudan) where political, religious, and ethnic issues deeply divide Christians and Muslims;
- Provided, as well as encouraged specialised training and research on Islam and Christian-Muslim relations in Africa up to Masters and PhD levels, with the aim of graduates serving the Programme as Area Advisers or being of service to the churches in their countries;
- Created a forum for women to share experiences on issues of particular concern to women in Christian-Muslim interaction;
- Promoted research on Islam and Christian-Muslim relations in the African context, documented and published the findings;



- Initiated a PROCMURA occasional paper where academic and practical issues on Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa are published;
- Initiated an MA Programme in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations together with St. Paul's United Theological College, Limuru, Kenya;
- Initiated a BA Programme in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations with the Mekane Yesus Seminary, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

#### Existing areas to strengthen are:

- Training of qualified and capable personnel who can be retained to serve as Area Advisers in emerging Area Committees;
- Sensitise Area Committees to involve young people in their programmes and to consciously evolve programmes that would meet the needs of young people;
- To continue to step up our bid to be a forum for African Church leaders to share and discuss national, regional and continental issues pertaining to Christian-Muslim relations with their Muslim counterparts.
- To consciously provide the needed forum for Christians and Muslims to work towards peace, peaceful co-existence and collaboration to attend to issues of mutual concern.

#### Future Challenges/Projections

In spite of the stated achievements of PROCMURA thus far, there are some new areas to explore and existing areas to strengthen.

#### New areas to explore:

- To initiate MA Programmes in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations in two more theological colleges in Francophone and Anglophone West Africa;
- To work towards the establishment of a PROCMURA research centre;
- To support women theologians to take up studies in Islam to promote the Women's Programme;
- To work towards the establishment of an investment fund for the Programme;
- To explore ways and means by which we can expand our work into Southern Africa, Central Africa, and the Sahel region of Africa.

#### Contact Addresses in PROCMURA Regions

##### East and Southern Africa Region

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##### West Africa (Francophone) Region

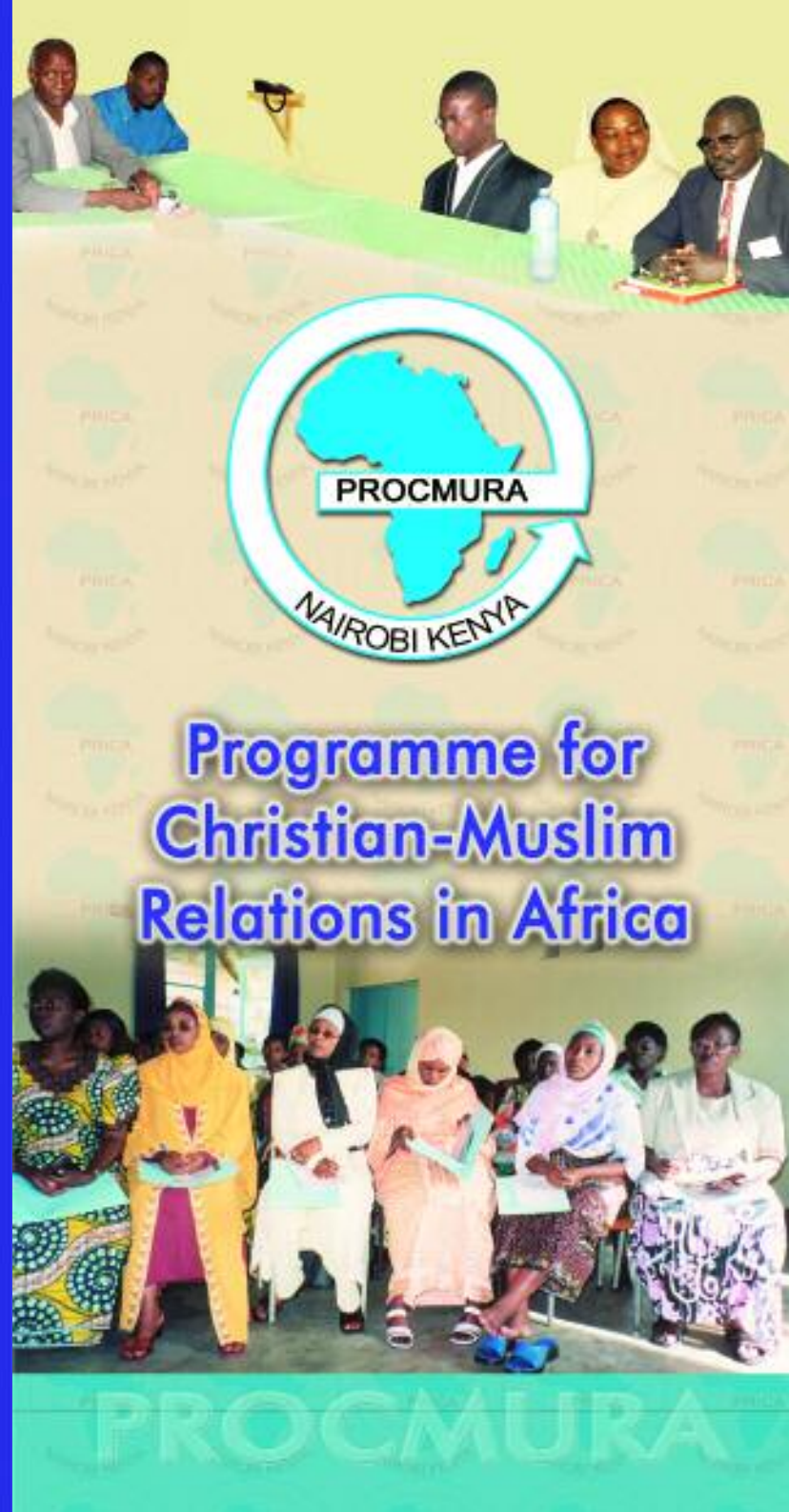
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Future Challenges/Projections

Contact Addresses in PROCMURA Regions



#### PROCMURA'S Area Of Work



- Learning Area For PROCMURA
- Development stage
- Provisional Area Committees
- Substantive Area Committees
- Yet to be Explored
- Exploratory Stage

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