

IV. Catholic universities

1. Encourage practical research and teachers and students exchange;
2. Formation for all students in Christian philosophy and anthropology;
3. Encourage contextual and comparative grounded theologies;
4. Entrust the 7 themes of the **Global Education Pact** to 7 major Catholic Universities of the continent;
5. Strengthen innovation and creativity in all areas of university education;
6. Guarantee that a percentage (5%-10%) of student enrollment is secured for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

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Done at Kinshasa,
6th November 2022

CARDINALS

- | His Eminence Fridolin Cardinal AMBONGO, Archbishop of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, President of the Council of Cardinals;
- | His Eminence Dieudonné Cardinal NZAPALAINGA, Archbishop of Bangui, Republic of the Central African Republic and Member of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples;
- | His Eminence Antoine Cardinal KAMBANDA, Archbishop of Kigali, Rwanda, Member of the Dicastery for Culture and Education;

BISHOPS

- | His Grace Marcel UTEMBI, Archbishop of Kinshasa, President of the National Episcopal Conference of the Congo and Grand Chancellor of the Catholic University of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- | His Grace Gabriel SAYAGO, Archbishop of Koupéla, Advisor of the International Foundation Religions and Societies, Burkina Faso;
- | His Grace Archbishop Inácio SAURE, Archbishop of Nampula and President of the Episcopal Conference of Mozambique, Mozambique;
- | His Grace Fulgence MUTEBA, Archbishop of Lubumbashi, Advisor to the International Foundation for Religions and Societies, Democratic Republic of Congo;
- | His Grace Andrew NKEA, Archbishop of Bamenda, President of the National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon, Cameroon;
- | His Grace Jean MBARGA, Archbishop of Yaoundé, Grand Chancellor of the Catholic University of Central Africa, Cameroon;

- | His Lordship Philippe RUKAMBA, Bishop of Butare, President of the Episcopal Conference of Rwanda, Grand Chancellor of the Catholic University of Rwanda and Southern Co-President of the International Foundation Religions and Societies

- | His Lordship Joachim NTAHONDEREYE, Bishop of Muyinga and President of the Episcopal Conference of Burundi, Burundi;

- | His Lordship Johan BONNY, Bishop of Antwerp and Advisor to the International Foundation Religions and Societies, Belgium;

- | His Lordship Mgr Nestor-Désiré NONGO AZIAGBIA, Bishop of Bossangoa and President of the Episcopal Conference of the Central African Republic, Central African Republic;

- | His Lordship Moses CHIKWE, Auxiliary Bishop of Owerri and delegate of His Excellency Lucius UGORJI, Archbishop of Owerri and President of the National Episcopal Conference of Nigeria;

- | His Lordship Hilary Nanman DACHELEM, Bishop of Bauchi, Nigeria;

- | His Lordship Flavian MATINDI KASSALA, Bishop of Geita and Vice-President of the National Episcopal Conference of Tanzania, Tanzania;

- | His Lordship Juan Domingo-Béka ESONO AYANG, Bishop of Mongomo and President of the Episcopal Conference of Equatorial Guinea, Equatorial Guinea;

- | His Lordship Joaquim Nhanganga TYOMBE, Bishop of Uije and delegate of the Episcopal Conference of Angola, Angola;

N.B: The following have participated in the Kinshasa meeting:

- | His Excellency Bishop Vincenzo Angelo ZANI, Former Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education;

- | His Excellency Bishop Ettore BALESTRERO, Apostolic Nuncio in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

- | His Excellency Bishop Antoine CAMILLERI, Apostolic Nuncio to Ethiopia and to the African Union.

MAJOR SUPERIORS

- | Reverend Dom Bernard LORENT, Abbot of Maredsous, Belgium, Monastery of Gihindamuyaga, Rwanda and North Co-President of the International Foundation Religions and Societies;

- | Reverend Dom Olivier-Marie SARR, Abbot of Keur Moussa and Consultor to the Congregation of Divine Worship, Senegal;

- | Reverend Father Michel COPPIN, Provincial Superior of the Salvatorians and Advisor to the International Foundation Religions and Societies, Belgium;

SCHOLARS

- | Father Professor Léonard SANTEDE, Vice Chancellor of the Catholic University of Congo;

- | Reverend Father Professor Martinien BOSOKPALE DUMANA, Catholic University of Congo;

- | Father Professor Jean Bertrand SALLA, Vice Chancellor of the Catholic University of Central Africa, Cameroon;

- | Professor Jean-Paul NIYIGENA, Secretary General of the International Foundation Religions and Societies and Consultor to the Dicastery for Culture and Education;

- | Professor Jean-Paul MESSINA, Catholic University of Central Africa, Cameroon;

- | Father Professor Edouard ADE, Catholic University of West Africa and Member of the International Theological Commission, Benin

- | Professor Dominique MARTENS, Director of Lumen Vitae, Belgium;

- | Father Professor Gaston OGUI COSSI, Catholic University of West Africa, Ivory Coast;

- | Professor Bernhard GRÜMME, University of Bochum, Germany;

- | Professor Mary GETUI, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya;

- | Professor Beatrice CHURU, Tangaza University College, Kenya;

- | Professor François PROUTEAU, Catholic University of the West, France;

- | Reverend Father Emmanuel Patrick ISSOMO MAMA, Pontifical Gregorian University, Italy;

- | Professor Reggie NEL, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa;

- | Professor José Maria SICILIANI BARRAZA, Universidad de La Salle, Colombia;

- | Professor Franz GMAINER-PRANZI, University of Salzburg, Austria;

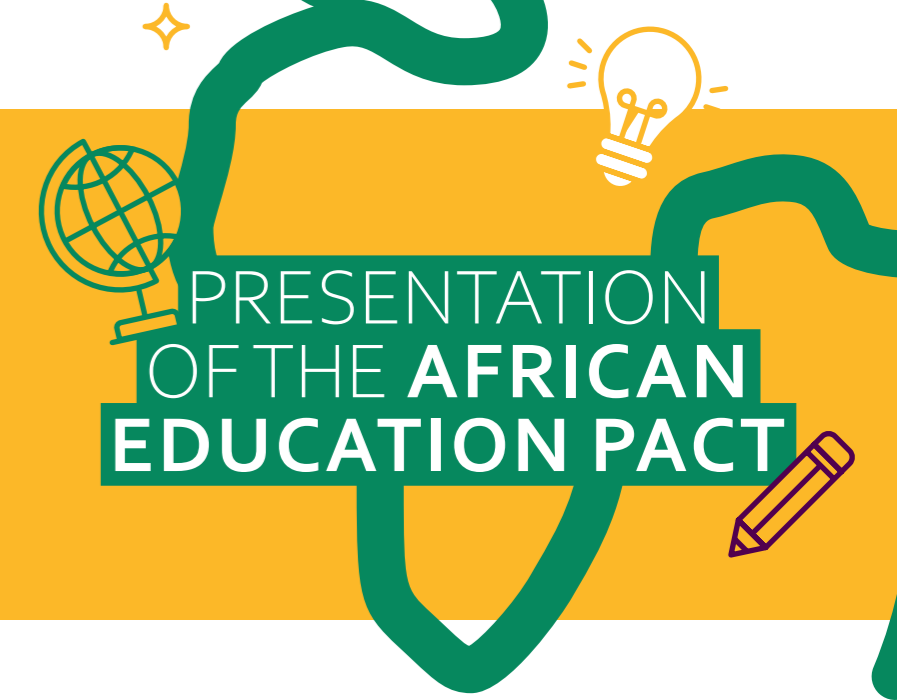
- | Reverend Sister Professor Ana Thea FILIPOVIC, University of Zagreb, Croatia;

- | Father Professor Dieudonné MUSHIPU MBOMBO, University of Fribourg, Switzerland;

- | Professor Véronique SIMON, University of Uppsala, Sweden;

- | Father Professor Adrien NTABONA, University of Burundi, Burundi.

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AFRICAN EDUCATION PACT

We would like to bring to your attention the **African Education Pact** finalized at the end of the *International Symposium of Kinshasa* organized by the International Foundation Religions Societies and hosted by the Catholic University of Congo from November 3 to 6, 2022 in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was presented to the People of God of Kinshasa on November 6, 2022 during a mass presided over by His Eminence Fridolin Cardinal Ambongo.

This **African Education Pact** that we are sending you is the result of activities organized by the International Foundation Religions and Societies in different moments : Butare International Symposium I in 2017, *Butare International Symposium II* in 2018, *Maredsous International Symposium* in 2019, *Kigali International Symposium* in 2019 and the *Yaoundé International Symposium* in 2021. These meetings allowed us to reflect on the contribution of the Church, through the Catholic school, to prepare a better future in an Africa ravaged by various crises.

Encouraged and accompanied by His Excellency Bishop Vincenzo Angelo Zani, then Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, we invited all the Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar to the SECAM meeting from July 25 to August 1, 2022 for a working session at the Catholic University of Congo located in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We have set ourselves the objective of producing an **African Education Pact** which we present to you as a contribution to the **Global Education Pact**.

In fact, this **African Education Pact** is intended to be, on the one hand, the fruit of the different meetings mentioned above and, on the other hand, the African appropriation of the **Global Education Pact**. Beatrice Wairu Churu It is nourished by the experiences of pastors and theologians as well as other researchers from universities in Africa, Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Latin America. This **African Education Pact** has been elaborated in the spirit of collegiality, synodality and catholicity. It has four parts: Internal Organization of the Church, Catholic Schools, Governments and Catholic Universities.

On behalf of the International Foundation Religions and Societies, we thank the Congregation for Culture and Education, Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops, Reverend Fathers, and Professors of various universities for having combined their efforts in a diligent and patient work. The International Foundation Religions and Societies and its partners will continue to bring their expertise to ensure and accompany the implementation of the **African Education Pact** at the continental, regional, diocesan, parochial, etc. levels.

May this **African Education Pact** translate into an effective dynamic of the new evangelization for the glory of God and the salvation of the African man and woman.

+ Philippe RUKAMBA

Bishop of Butare and Co-President South of the International Foundation Religions and Societies

+ Dom Bernard LORENT

Father Abbot of Maredsous and Co-President North of the International Foundation Religions and Societies

Professor Jean-Paul NIYIGENA

Secretary General of the International Foundation Religions and Societies-
Consultor to the Dicastery for Culture and Education

African Education Pact

I. Internal organization of the Church:

1. Start from the texts of the Magisterium on the Church in Africa: *Ecclesia in Africa and Africae munus* ;
2. Work with all structures related to education in a synodal spirit and be attentive to the issue of diversity;
3. Accompany Catholic intellectuals in public and political life;
4. Safeguard the place of women in Catholic educational structures
5. Create/revitalise a/the continental commission on education at SECAM level;
6. Establish regional commissions for Catholic education;
7. Create or strengthen Catholic education coordination offices at parish, diocesan and national levels;
8. Ensure collaboration of competences between episcopal conferences, sharing expertise and human resources;
9. Accompany families in their role in the education of their children.

II. Catholic schools

1. Emphasize, in each educational institution of the Church, a policy of having a percentage (between 5 and 10%) of children from disadvantaged backgrounds and families benefiting from a scholarship funded by the faithful and the parents of the learners. This internal and ecclesial solidarity is also valid for boarding schools;
2. Creating boarding schools is recommended especially in social contexts where financial resources are limited.
3. Guarantee a synodal management of Catholic schools collaborating together as lay men and women, priests and religious;
4. Increase the access of girls to quality education
5. Ensure education for Christian citizenship in order to prepare citizens capable of committing themselves to a democratic society and to the common good;

6. Safe place: the Catholic school must be a safe place where children and adults in general, especially the vulnerable, are safeguarded, protected, respected and treated with dignity. It is therefore important to have policies and procedures for safeguarding and protection against abuse of any kind;
7. Establish and propose a pedagogical project highlighting the values and mission of each educational institution based on Christian principles;
8. Introduce or promote education for beauty and interiority;
9. Train learners in critical thinking skills to resist all forms of manipulation;
10. Introduce and/or strengthen ecological education and encourage ecological practices

III. Governments

1. Basing on ancestral values offer educational systems that promote the learning of national languages and an openness to foreign languages, in order to develop the talent of learners according to the needs of society and to form world citizens rooted in their local cultures.
2. Organize Commissions for Educational Assessment; this is also valid for the Church.
3. Provide financial and social support to the most disadvantaged families in their mission of education ;
4. Legislatively assure the protection of vulnerable people.
5. Be attentive to civil societies (especially those that promote Christian values).
6. Increase the education budget in order to improve the state of infrastructure and the quality of education.
7. Ensure the quality of initial and ongoing teacher education and provide teachers with decent salaries;

