



SYMPOSIUM OF EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES OF AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR

**MESSAGE OF THE 19TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SYMPOSIUM OF
EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES OF AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR (SECAM)**

The 19th Plenary Assembly of the **SYMPOSIUM OF EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES OF AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR (SECAM)** took place from July 25 to August 1, 2022 in Accra, Ghana on the theme: **“Ownership of SECAM: Security and Migration in Africa and the Islands.”**

At the end of this plenary assembly, having listened to the various speakers, who came from Africa and various continents, we, your Pastors, address this message to the Church, Family of God which is in Africa and in the islands. We know that “Salvation embraces all realities; be it economic, political, socio-cultural, ecological, or ethical. It therefore covers all contemporary questions...” (Kampala Document n°189). Our address to you will thus concern specifically the ownership of SECAM, security, migration, communication and synodality.

1. Ownership of SECAM

SECAM is the organ of pastoral solidarity for the Church in Africa and Madagascar. It is the body that makes the Church in the continent to feel at home and to contribute to the universal Church. Evangelization which is the principal task of the Church requires that each ecclesial entity should, as much as possible, be able to take care of its needs. It is therefore urgent that SECAM which is our continental body for the exercise of evangelization should strive through concrete engagement of all her members to be financially and materially self-sufficient (cf. *Africae Munus*, n°107). We, your pastors, commit ourselves to henceforth support fully the mission of SECAM and urge you to identify with her in order to make her more dynamic and functional in the execution of her mission of evangelization.

We know that “the true missionary is the saint” (*Redemptoris Missio*, n° 90). We, your pastors therefore renew our commitment to carry out this mission which Christ has entrusted to us. We also urge you to join us as we commit ourselves to living a life of holiness as a sign of our Christian testimony.

2. Insecurity in Africa and Madagascar

Several regions of our continent are experiencing great insecurity due to socio-political instability, violence, economic poverty, weak health structures, insurgency, terrorism,