



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

lutheranworld.org

Resolution - Commending the People of Nigeria

The Lutheran World Federation Council congratulates the people of Nigeria for conducting free and fair, democratic and peaceful elections on 28 March and 11 April 2015. In particular, we commend the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan, for graciously abiding by the results of the elections, congratulating his opponent and urging his supporters to accept the results.

Elections in Africa have in many cases been the source of or catalyst for civil wars, instability and bloodshed, such as the current situation in Burundi. Despite the fact that many African countries have, in one form or another, institutionalized multiparty democracy and therefore regular elections, these elections have not changed the nature of politics in many countries away from the politics of ethnicity, exclusion and corruption.

Against this background the recent peaceful elections and transfer of power in Nigeria represent a leap forward for Africa in the direction of democracy and respect for the voice of the people.

We therefore call upon:

- The African Union and its Regional Economic Communities to encourage necessary political reforms for free and fair, democratic and peaceful elections, as well as respect for the International Criminal Court and its procedures, in order to reduce election-related conflicts and bloodshed.
- The Government of Nigeria to continue making efforts for the immediate release of the abducted Chibok girls. We commend the current president, Muhammadu Buhari, for his initial steps of relocating the command centre for the fight against Boko Haram to Maiduguri.
- The LWF member churches to continue to pray for peace in Nigeria and improved inter-faith relations among Nigerians.

Lastly, the LWF Council extends its appreciation to the LWF General Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Martin Junge, for his solidarity visit to northern Nigeria and to the Rev. Dr. Alex Malasusa, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and Vice-President of the LWF, for his solidarity letter to the people of Nigeria on behalf of the Lutheran Council in Africa (LUCA).