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The Global Christian Forum – Nairobi 2007

Six months from now, on 6 – 9 November, the Global Christian Forum will gather at Jumuia Conference Centre in Limuru, about 25 kms north-west from the city of Nairobi, Kenya. Just prior to the Forum the International Council and Leadership Team of the World Evangelical Alliance will hold its annual meeting at the same venue, and the Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions will meet immediately afterwards, in Nairobi. These arrangements have been made so that the members of these two bodies will be able to participate in the Forum.

Programme of the Forum

Meeting under the theme *Our Journey with Jesus Christ, the Reconciler*, the four-day event will begin with an introduction to the history and purpose of the Global Christian Forum and an intensive round of sharing among the participants of their faith journeys and faith communities. Because of the size of the gathering this will be done in groups, followed by feedback in plenary. The participants will also review the proposed programme and purpose of the event itself. The second and third days will focus on two sub-themes: *Sharing our discernment of what God is doing in our Churches and Organizations* and *Sharing our discernment of our place in God's mission in the world*. Presentations in the morning will be followed by group work and plenary meetings in the afternoon. The entire last day is set aside for reflection and discussion, in groups and plenary, on the future of the Forum. Besides the opening and closing celebrations, daily worship and prayer led by the various traditions, and Bible studies will frame and nourish the deliberations. In the evenings the participants will be able to meet by region and by tradition.

Speakers

Three speakers will address the key issues at stake. Dr Cheryl Bridges Johns, Professor of Discipleship and Christian Formation at the Theological Seminary of the Church of God (Cleveland, USA), will speak on new and emerging trends in Christianity and highlight the rapid changes and multiple faces of the Christian church in the world today. Dr Wonsuk Ma, Executive Director of the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, will address the gathering on the question of discerning what God is doing in the churches and church-related organizations today, and Dr Lamin Sanneh, Professor of World Christianity & History at Yale Divinity School, will speak on the issue of discernment as it relates to the place of the churches and organizations in God's mission in the world.

Participants

The Forum will bring together some 240 leaders from the wide diversity of the Body of Christ and all the regions of the world. About half of these will come from Evangelical and Pentecostal churches and para-church organizations, including African Instituted churches. They will be joined by representatives of the Anglican and Protestant church families (over sixty participants), the Orthodox churches (some twenty-five), regional bishops' conferences of the Catholic Church (about twenty) and international Christian organizations. To date, over one hundred have already confirmed their participation. It will be the first gathering ever of such a broad representation of all the main Christian traditions in the world.