

COMBONI MISSIONARIES
SUBCONTINENTAL ASSEMBLY ON MISSION
APDESAM
Nairobi, May 6th - 10th, 2025
FINAL STATEMENT

- I. Participants from South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Eritrea, Malawi/Zambia and Mozambique gathered in Nairobi from 6th to 10th May 2025 to hold a subcontinental Assembly on Mission. Absent with apology were the representatives of the two Circumscriptions of Egypt-Sudan and Ethiopia. The latter sent in its report which was presented to the Assembly. Three members of the APDESAM Leadership actively participated in the Assembly, namely Fr. José Joaquim Luis Pedro, Provincial Superior of Mozambique and Coordinator of the Mission sector in the APDESAM region, Fr. John Baptist Opargiw, Provincial Superior of South Africa and Continental Coordinator of APDESAM and Fr. Gaim Haileselassie, the Superior of the Delegation of Eritrea. The Secretary General of Mission, Fr. Fernando Galarza and Bro. Alberto Parise participated virtually via zoom. Other participants at this Assembly included the Provincial Secretaries of Mission. The main objective of the Assembly was to prepare the Charter of Mission for APDESAM region based on the missionary work that is being done in this sub-continent.
- II. The first days of the Assembly were dedicated to listening to the narrative of the reality of the mission in each Circumscription. In all APDESAM Circumscriptions, the Comboni missionaries are engaged in various apostolates that embody the Comboni charism: First Evangelization, Urban Apostolate, Missionary Animation, Human Promotion (Education, Healthcare and Social Transformation), Justice and Peace, Integral Ecology, Interreligious dialogue and Ecumenism, the Fight against Human Trafficking, and Pastoral Care for Migrants and marginalized communities and Mass media. These apostolates need to be continuously revisited because our world is changing rapidly across multiple dimensions.
- III. The Assembly also reflected on the spiritual life that supports our mission. The following points are worth highlighting in order to render our mission unto the heart

of God and that of Comboni: strong prayer life; daily meditation on the Scriptures; reappropriation of the Rule of Life, especially on the sections on Evangelization and Charism.

- IV. The structure of Mission and the relationship between the various levels of coordination were revisited. There is a need to harmonize the work of the General Secretariat of Mission, the Continental Council of Mission and the Circumscription Secretariat of Mission. We underlined the centrality of mission in our life and activities and this fact must be concretized at all these levels of coordination.
- V. While acknowledging and thanking God for the missionary and apostolic ardor of many Comboni Missionaries in the APDESAM sub-continent, the Assembly has affirmed the following main priorities:
 - 1. Establishing Mission Promotion Centres in the Circumscriptions, fully equipped with a Missionary Animation Plan with concrete initiatives;
 - 2. Cherishing the associations of Comboni Friends;
 - 3. Fostering self-reliance and self-sustainability of our mission;
 - 4. Making prophetic options demanded by the various situations in which we live and work;
 - 5. Preparing confreres for the various ministries that define our Comboni mission in the region;
 - 6. Adopting ministeriality as a “transversal” missionary paradigm and a fundamental element for the requalification our missionary service;
 - 7. Embracing Integral ecology as a holistic approach to understanding the interconnectedness of the reality that surrounds us, a way of conversion and a fundamental axis of our mission today.
- VI. To meet the main aim of the Assembly, an APDESAM Charter of Mission was drafted and will be submitted to the Circumscription Superiors for approval as an instrument that will help our sub-continent to have common goals and a specific missionary methodology.

On Behalf of the Participants,

Fr. José Joaquim Luis Pedro

Coordinator of the Mission Sector of the Assembly of the Provinces and Delegations of the English Speaking Africa and Mozambique (APDESAM)

Maputo, 16th May 2025