

## 5<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF RECOWA

**Theme :** *"For a synodal and self-reliant Church in the service of justice and peace in West Africa"*

### PROGRAMME

† Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	
	<b>Arrival and accommodation of participants</b>
	Lunch Dinner – Information
	Meeting of the Steering Committee (Presidential Council, President and Secretary General of CESMCVGB)
† Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	
7 h	Lauds at the place of accommodation
7 h 30	Breakfast at the accommodation
8 h 30	Departure for the Opening Ceremony
Opening ceremony (Grand Théâtre de Dakar)	
10 h - 12 h	<b>Installation</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 8 h 30: End of population settling in</li> <li>✓ 9 h 20: End of installation of Bishops and Officials</li> </ul>
	<b>Welcome</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 9 h 30: Introduction to the Presentation of Bishops and Officials by the Master of Ceremony</li> <li>▪ Presentation of Bishops, participants and officials (Secretary General of RECOWA and SG of Senegal)</li> <li>▪ Welcome song</li> <li>✓ 10 h: Arrival and recognition of the Head of State</li> </ul>
	<b>Introduction</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introduction by the Master of Ceremony</li> <li>▪ Flags parade</li> <li>▪ National anthem of Senegal (Pincez tous la kora)</li> <li>▪ Vatican Anthem</li> <li>▪ Opening prayer (His Grace Most Rev. André Gueye, Archbishop of Dakar)</li> <li>✓ Musical interlude</li> </ul>
	<b>Messages</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Message from the President of CESMCVGB, representing the Conference and the faithful</li> <li>▪ Message from the Apostolic Nuncio to Senegal, representing the Holy Father and his collaborators</li> <li>✓ Musical interlude</li> </ul>
	<b>Speech</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Speech by the Resident Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission Mrs. Zelma NOBRE FASSINOU</li> <li>▪ Speech by the President of RECOWA, Most Rev. Alexis Touabli Youlo</li> <li>▪ Address by the President of Senegal, His Excellency Mr. Bassirou Diomaye Faye</li> <li>✓ Anthem to RECOWA</li> </ul>
	<b>End of ceremony</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closing prayer (Most Rev. Alexis Touabli Youlo, RECOWA President)</li> <li>✓ Group photograph</li> <li>✓ Refreshment</li> <li>✓ Interview with some Officials</li> </ul>
13 h	Return to the Fleur de Lys Point E Hotel Mid-day prayer in private Lunch at the hotel

<b>Opening Prayer and Messages from Partners</b>	
15 h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invocation of the Holy Spirit (Veni Creator)</li> <li>Enthronement of the Word of God (Liturgy Commission)</li> <li>Prayer (Archbishop of Dakar)</li> </ul>
15 h 15 - 16 h 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each partner has 5 minutes               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) SECAM SECRETARIAT</li> <li>2) CARITAS AFRICA</li> <li>3) USCCB</li> <li>4) CIDSE</li> <li>5) CAFOD</li> <li>6) MISEREOR</li> <li>7) MISSIO</li> <li>8) CRS</li> <li>9) EWTN</li> <li>10) BAYARD AFRIQUE</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Reports of the Conferences</b>	
16 h 15 - 17 h 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Conference has 5 minutes               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) CABICOL (Liberia)</li> <li>2) CBCN (Nigeria)</li> <li>3) CEB (Benin)</li> <li>4) CEBN (Burkina-Niger)</li> <li>5) CECCI (Cote d'Ivoire)</li> <li>6) CEG (Guinea)</li> <li>7) CEM (Mali)</li> <li>8) CET (Togo)</li> <li>9) GCBC (Ghana)</li> <li>10) ITCABIC (Sierra Leone-Gambia)</li> <li>11) CSMCVGB (Senegal-Mauritanie-Cap Vert-Guinea Bissau)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Opening Eucharistic Celebration</b>	
17 h 45	Movement to the Cathedral
18 h 30	Opening Mass at the Cathedral
20 h	Dinner at the Point E hotel
After Dinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steering Committee meeting</li> <li>Round table meeting</li> </ul>
<b>† Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>	
	Adoration in private
6 h 45	Mass and Lauds (Saint Joseph de Médina Parish)
8 h	Breakfast at the Point E Hotel
<b>Opening and Thematic communications</b>	
9 h - 9 h 15	Rosary: 1st Decade of Glorious Mysteries ( <i>The Resurrection of Christ</i> ) +Prayer for the Church/the Conclave/the Pope Points of the day (du 6 mai)
9 h 15 - 9 h 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication of Fridolin Cardinal Ambongo on the theme of the Assembly: <i>For a synodal and self-reliant Church in the service of justice and peace in West Africa</i>            ✓ Reader : The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of SECAM (+ Stephen Mamza)</li> </ul>
9 h 45 - 10 h 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication of Michael Cardinal Czerney, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development on <i>Migration</i>            ✓ Speaker: Mr. Mário Almeida, the Regional Coordinator of this Dicastery's Listening and Dialogue Section</li> </ul> Exchanges
10 h 45 - 11 h	Coffee break
11 h - 12 h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address on <i>Global Governance and Africa</i>            ✓ Speaker : Madam Marguerite Peeters</li> </ul> Exchange
	Mid-day Prayer Lunch

Panels	
15 h - 16 h 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> panel discussion: <i>Synodality and autonomy (Self-reliant Church)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Contributions: Group of 6 RECOWA Bishops (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal/Mauritania/Cape Verde/Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone/Gambia)</li> <li>✓ Moderator</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Discussions
16 h 45 - 17 h 10	Coffee break
17 h 10 - 18 h 55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> panel discussion: <i>Synodality in the service of justice and peace</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Contributions: Group of 5 RECOWA Bishops (Burkina Faso/Niger, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Liberia, Togo)</li> <li>✓ Moderator</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Discussions
19 h	Vespers Dinner
After Dinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting on the RECOWA Peace Observatory with the Dicastery, the Steering Committee and the Presidents of Conferences and Commissions</li> </ul>
<b>† Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b> <b>NB: From today (Thursday 8 and Friday 9): Meetings reserved for Bishops and SGs of RECOWA</b>	
	Adoration in private
6 h 45	Mass and Lauds (Saint Joseph of Medina Parish)
8 h 00	Breakfast
Opening and Reports	
9 h - 9 h 15	Rosary: 1st Decade of Luminous Mysteries ( <i>The Institution of the Eucharist</i> ) +Prayer for the Church/the Conclave/the Pope Point of the day (7 May)
9 h 15 - 11 h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Reports             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ President of RECOWA</li> <li>✓ Secretary General</li> <li>✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Secretary General</li> <li>✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Secretary General</li> <li>✓ Communications Officer</li> </ul> </li> <li>Pastoral Reports from the Presidents of the 8 Commissions (5 mins)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Catechesis and Catholic Education</li> <li>✓ Clergy, Seminaries and Consecrated Life</li> <li>✓ Social Communications</li> <li>✓ Culture, Inter-Religious and Ecumenism</li> <li>✓ Justice, Peace and Developpement</li> <li>✓ Laity and Family</li> <li>✓ Liturgy, Theology and Biblical Apostolate</li> <li>✓ Mission, Pontifical Missions and Apostolate of Tthe Sea, Migrants and Tourism</li> </ul> </li> <li>Proposed amendements for decisions</li> </ul>
11 h - 11 h 20	Coffee break
11 h 20 - 12 h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial report             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Finance Committee (President of the Committee)</li> <li>✓ Project of the new RECOWA Secretariat in Abuja: <i>video of 20 mins</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> Exchange
12 h - 13 h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports from institutions (5 mins)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ RUPWA (Priests)</li> <li>✓ RECOMSWA ( Majeur Superiors)</li> <li>✓ CRLAO (Laity)</li> <li>✓ Youth Apostolate (Catholique Youth)</li> <li>✓ UCAO (Rectorate)</li> <li>✓ CIWA (Rectorate)</li> <li>✓ CARITAS RECOWA</li> <li>✓ RECOWA Representative EMI</li> <li>✓ EMI-OA</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Exchange

	Midday Prayer Lunch
<b>Elections</b>	
15 h - 16 h	Supervision : RECOWA Canonist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of first tenure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Presidential Council: The 3 Bishop Presidents</li> <li>✓ The Secretary General and the 1st Deputy Secretary General</li> </ul> </li> <li>End of tenure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Secretary General</li> <li>✓ Communications Officer</li> </ul> </li> <li>Presentation of the new members of the Secretariat for approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Secretary General</li> <li>✓ Communications Officer</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
16 h - 16 h 45	Consultation of Episcopal Commissions
16 h 45 - 17 h 10	Coffee break
17 h 10 - 18 h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elections of the Presidents of the Episcopal Commissions</li> </ul>
18 h - 18 h 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appreciation to outgoing members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 2nd Deputy Secretary General and Communications Officer</li> <li>✓ Other Commissions Presidents at the end of their tenure</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Thematic communication</b>	
18 h 15 - 19 h 15	Sahel Peace Initiative (SPI)
	Vespers Dinner
After Dinner	Steering Committee Meeting
<b>† Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b> <i>Reminder: Meetings reserved for Bishops and SGs of RECOWA</i>	
7 h	Lauds Breakfast
<b>AOB</b>	
8 h 30 - 8 h 45	Rosary: 1st Decade of Sorrowful Mysteries ( <i>The Agony in the Garden</i> ) +Prayer for the Church/the Conclave/the Pope
	Points of the day (8 May)
8 h 45 - 10 h 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ RECOWA representatives at the Synod: <i>video</i>, remarks</li> <li>✓ Information on the Confederation of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Any other business: List of registered members</li> </ul>
10 h 15 - 10 h 40	Coffee break
<b>Documents of the 5th Plenary Assembly</b>	
10 h 40 - 12 h 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading and correction of the Resolutions and Recommendations</li> <li>Reading and correction of the Pastoral Message</li> </ul>
12 h 50	Mid-day prayer Lunch
<b>Closing ceremony</b>	
15 h - 15 h 30	Reading and adoption of the Resolutions and Recommendations and the Pastoral Message
15 h 30 - 16 h 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments by the 1st Vice President of RECOWA</li> <li>Message from the President of RECOWA Homage Song to the Bishops (General Secretariat of RECOWA)</li> <li>Reposing of the Word of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Song</li> <li>✓ Final prayer</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
17 h	Departure to parishes
18 h 30	Mass with the communities Meals and social events in the parishes

† Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	
7 h	Lauds at the accommodation
7 h 30	Breakfast at the hotel
<b>Press conference</b>	
9 h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Press Conference               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Reading of the Message from the 5th Assembly (Press Committee)</li> <li>✓ Interview with the Presidential Council</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Cultural visits</b>	
10 h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sightseeing               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Museum of Civilizations</li> <li>✓ Gorée Islands</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Mass at Gorée parish</li> <li>▪ Lunch</li> </ul> Return to Dakar
19 h	Solemn Vespers Dinner
20 h 30	Cultural Evening Closing Prayer
† Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	
7 h	Lauds Breakfast
8 h 30	Departure for the closing Mass
10 h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closing Mass in Popenguine: Jubilee of the Bishops of West Africa               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Welcome</li> <li>✓ Reading of the Pastoral Message after Communion</li> <li>✓ Jubilee Prayer</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Lunch at the venue</li> </ul>
15 h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conclusion:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Rosary</li> <li>✓ Adoration</li> <li>✓ Blessing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
16 h	Return to Dakar
19 h	Vespers in private Dinner
† Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	
7 h	Lauds + Mass at the venue Breakfast
	Departures of participants
	* Presidential Council: handovers and visits