

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS

BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 180219c

Monday 19.02.2018

Press Release of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

Meeting of the Managing Board of the John Paul II Foundation for the Sahel (Dakar, Senegal, 19-23 February 2018)

From 19 to 23 February, in Dakar, Senegal, the annual meeting will be held of the Managing Board of the John Paul II Foundation for the Sahel, entrusted since its establishment in 1984 by Saint John Paul II to the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum". Cor Unum, and now within the competence of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. The under-secretary of the Dicastery, Msgr. Segundo Tejado Muñoz, will take part in the Board meeting. During the meeting, projects awaiting financing will be examined; 127 were approved in 2017, with a total allocation of about 2.3 million dollars; until 2016, the projects financed amounted to over 3,200, for a total of approximately 38 million dollars.

The members of the Board are: H.E. Msgr. Lucas Kalfa Sanou, bishop of Banfora, Burkina Faso, president; H.E. Msgr. Paul Abel Mamba, bishop of Ziguinchor, Senegal, vice-president; H.E. Msgr. Martin Albert Happe, M.Afr., bishop of Nouakchott, Mauritania, treasurer; H.E. Msgr. Ambroise Ouedraogo, bishop of Maradi, Niger; H.E. Msgr. Furtado Arlingo Gomes, bishop of Santiago de Cabo Verde, Cape Verde; H.E. Msgr. Goetbe Edmond Djitangar, archbishop of N'Djamena, Chad; H.E. Msgr. Gabriel Mendy, C.S.Sp., bishop of Banjul, Gambia; H.E. Msgr. José Cãmna na Bissign, bishop of Bissau, Guinea Bissau; H.E. Msgr. Augustin Traoré, bishop of Segou, Mali.

With the collaboration, in particular, of the Italian Episcopal Conference, of the German Episcopal Conference and of the local Church, the Foundation carries out, in the name of the Holy Father, projects against desertification, for the management and development of agricultural units, for water pumping, and for the improvement of drinking water and renewable energy, to assist the communities of the member countries (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal). It is also occupied with the training of specialized technical personnel, who are then enabled to serve their country. Over the years the Foundation has also been able to foster interreligious dialogue: indeed, the majority of beneficiaries, are Muslim.

According to the Human Development Index, which measures the human development index for each country, of the last 20 of the ranking 19 belong to Africa and, of these, 7 are located in the Sahel area. The situation is

aggravated by food crises, the depletion of natural resources, especially water, and the violence perpetrated on the population of the area, where extremist groups are present.
