

STATEMENT OF A NEW APOSTOLIC VISION OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS FOR AFRICA

"I HAVE COME SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL" (Jn 10, 10).

As Jesuits of Africa, we are inspired first by the universal mission of the Kingdom of God and by the desire of Saint Ignatius of Loyola to put the Society of Jesus at the service of the Church and the world; we salute with admiration the heroic work that many Jesuits have been doing and are doing in the African Assistancy and the world; we are motivated by the desire of the people of Africa for life; and we are convinced that the Society of Jesus can continue to make a significant contribution to the transformation of the world according to the vision of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Assistancy envisions an Africa in which people enjoy the fullness of life, live in peace and justice, and are in charge of their own development. The vision is born out of our Ignatian charism and our shared love for the Gospel and for Africa.

We strive to be an enabling presence to our people in their needs and concerns in a way that is salvific.

This one vision will be supported by ever more effective Assistancy structures and an active collaboration between our apostolic works, particularly between our common houses of formation.

In terms of strategies and actions to be carried out in order to implement this vision, we would like to single out two main activities, among many others, that would constitute the cornerstone of our apostolic commitments in the Assistancy: education and advocacy. Advocacy will allow us to be at the crossroads of modern ideologies and at the heart of the processes of decision-making for the future of our humanity, while sound education – at all levels (primary, secondary, tertiary, in our social and spiritual centers, and in our parishes) - is the sine qua non condition for any sustainable and durable development of Africa and the royal way through which Africa could tackle the many challenges of today's globalization: the digital divide, ecological threats, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to name but a few.

The realisation of our vision will demand excellence in the formation and professional training of ours, highly competent and visionary Jesuits and co-workers, and good leadership at all levels as well as cooperation and collaboration at all levels.

We humbly and prayerfully recommend this vision and our commitment to it to the greater glory of God.

Nairobi, 6 December 2007

Paulin Manwelo, SJ

Director of HIPSIR