



Working for the Good of the Continent

The Role and Mission of the SECAM Liaison Office to the African Union

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Context and Institutional Framework

The Partnership

The SECAM AU Liaison Office operates within the framework of institutional cooperation between the **Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM)** and the **African Union (AU)**.

Renewed MOU

A renewed **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** was signed on **13 February 2026**, establishing a structured, strategic, and action-oriented partnership between the two institutions.



The MOU (13 February 2026): Purpose

Cooperation & Collaboration

Facilitate cooperation and collaboration between SECAM and the AU in areas of mutual interest.

Effective Coordination

Establish arrangements ensuring effective coordination across continental structures and programmes.

Synergy & Joint Action

Promote synergy, information exchange, and joint action at the continental level.



MOU Objectives (Article 1)

The partnership seeks to advance Africa's transformation across five core dimensions:

Human & Peoples' Rights

Promote the protection and implementation of human and peoples' rights across the continent.

Good Governance & Rule of Law

Strengthen good governance, democracy, justice, and the rule of law.

Peace & Social Cohesion

Enhance peacebuilding, social cohesion, and conflict resolution.

Humanitarian Well-being

Support efforts addressing humanitarian crises and community well-being.

Continental Collaboration

Foster a collaborative and synergistic relationship across Africa.



Areas of Cooperation (Article 3)

Core Collaboration Areas

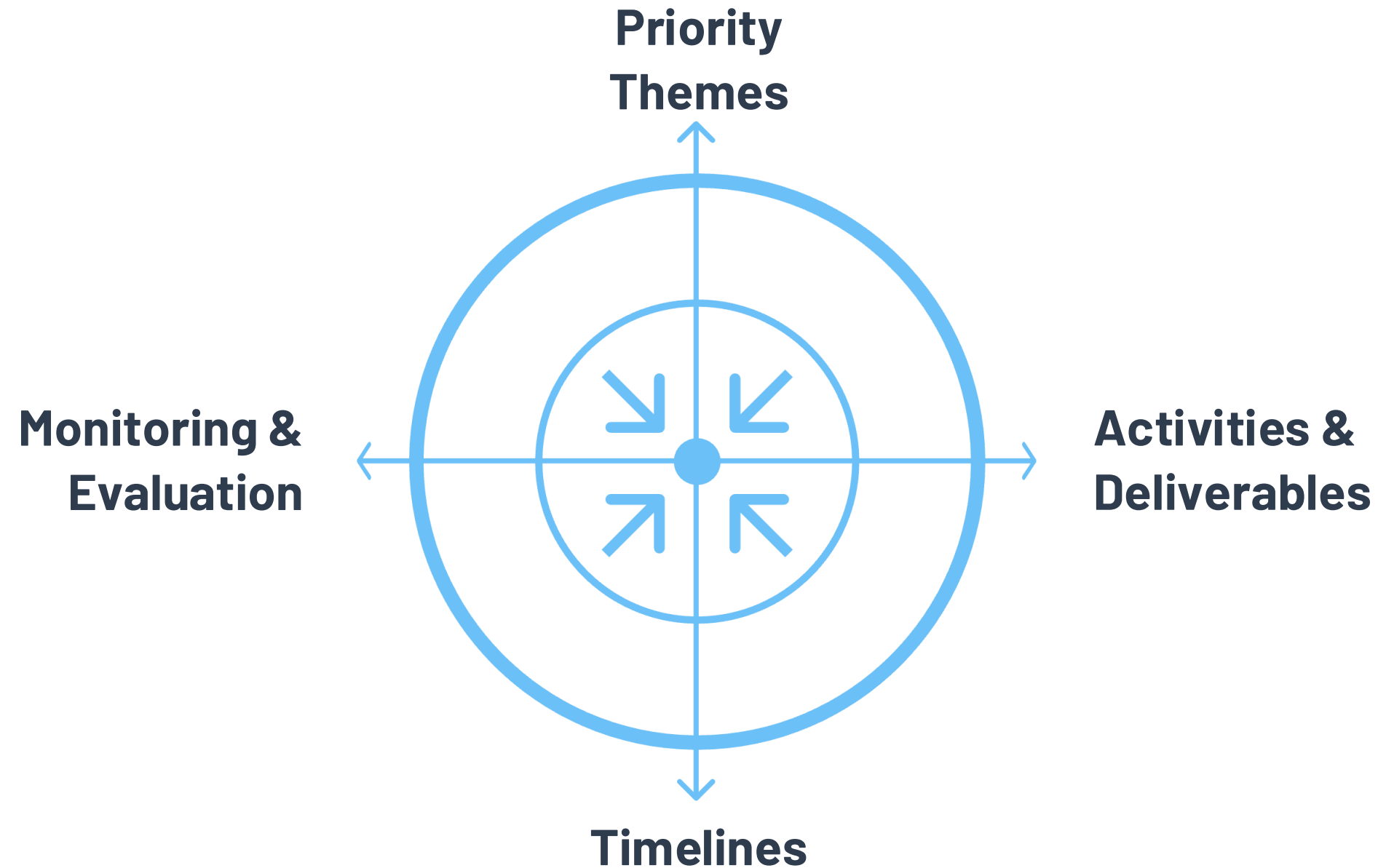
- Promotion of human and peoples' rights
- Promotion of good governance, democracy, and rule of law
- Support for peace, justice, reconciliation, and social cohesion

Additional Provisions

- Flexibility to engage in new areas of mutual concern
- Development of a **Joint Action Plan (JAP)**
- Implementation through designated officials and secondment arrangements

Operational Modality: Joint Action Plan

The MOU is operationalized through a **Joint Action Plan (JAP)**, ensuring accountability and measurable impact.



The JAP translates the MOU's strategic vision into concrete, time-bound commitments with clear mechanisms for tracking progress and outcomes.

Role of the SECAM AU Liaison Office



Bridge Institution

Connects the Church with AU structures, enabling meaningful institutional dialogue.



Facilitator of Dialogue

Drives policy engagement and fosters constructive conversation between faith and governance actors.



Programme Coordinator

Coordinates joint programmes and initiatives across continental platforms.



Policy Integration Platform

Integrates Catholic Social Teaching into continental policy frameworks.



Strategic Approach of the Liaison Office

The Liaison Office implements the partnership through five interconnected strategic pillars:



Policy Dialogue & Advocacy



Programme Coordination



**Knowledge Production &
Think Tank**



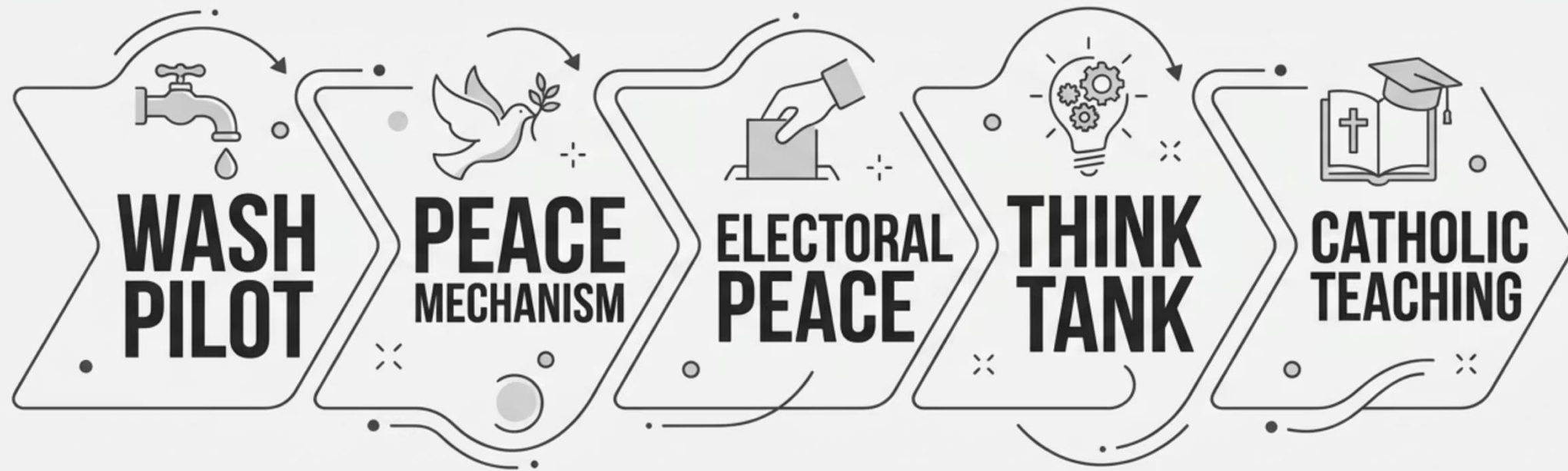
Capacity Building



Strategic Partnerships

Key Implementation Areas

The SECAM AU Liaison Office advances the partnership through a portfolio of flagship initiatives that translate strategic objectives into tangible action on the ground across Africa.





💧 WASH INITIATIVE

SECAM Continental WASH Pilot Initiative (2026–2028)

Focus & Alignment

Focused on **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)**, this initiative aligns with **AU Agenda 2063** and the **Africa Water Vision**.

Objective

Improve access to safe water and sanitation across communities, promoting **human dignity** and **public health** as expressions of integral development.

SECAM Peace and Humanitarian Coordination Mechanism

Crisis Coordination

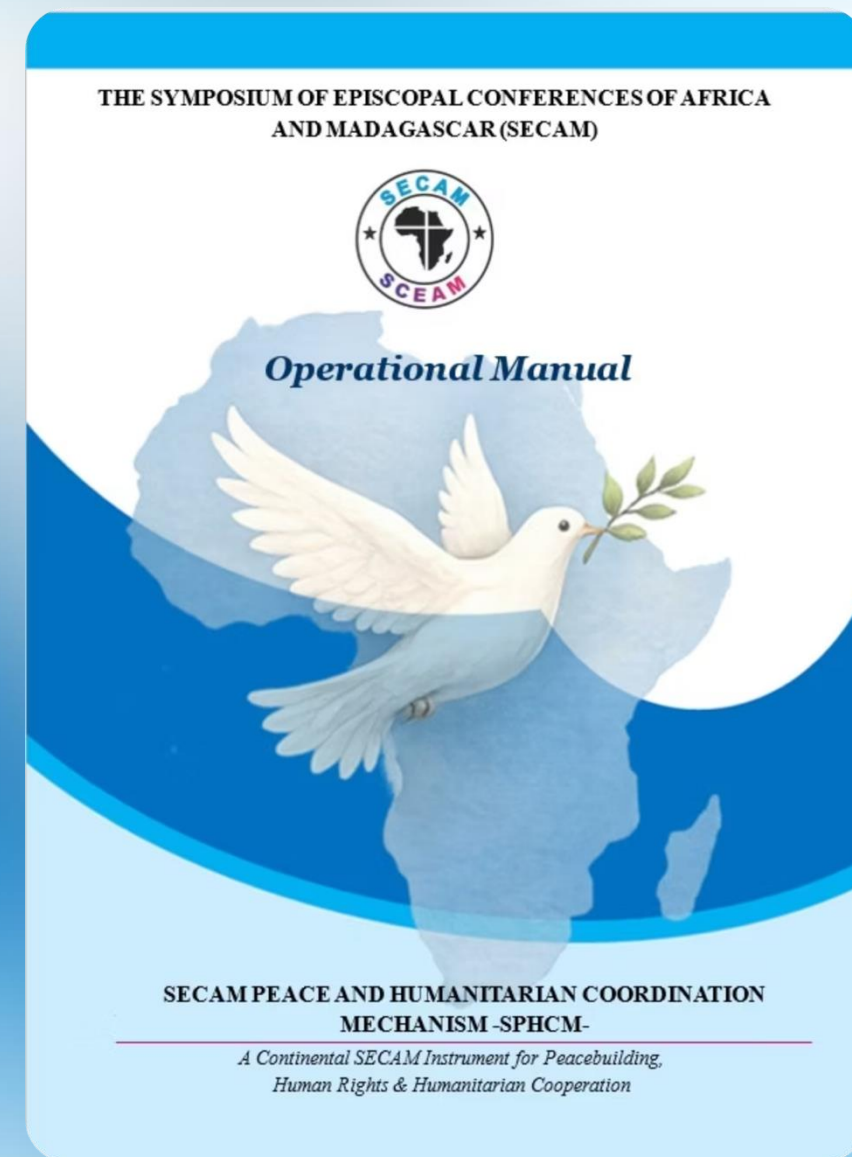
Structured mechanism for coordinating Church responses to humanitarian crises across the continent.

AU Peace & Security

Supports AU peace and security frameworks through aligned institutional action.

Conflict Prevention

Early engagement in conflict prevention, humanitarian response, and post-conflict reconciliation.



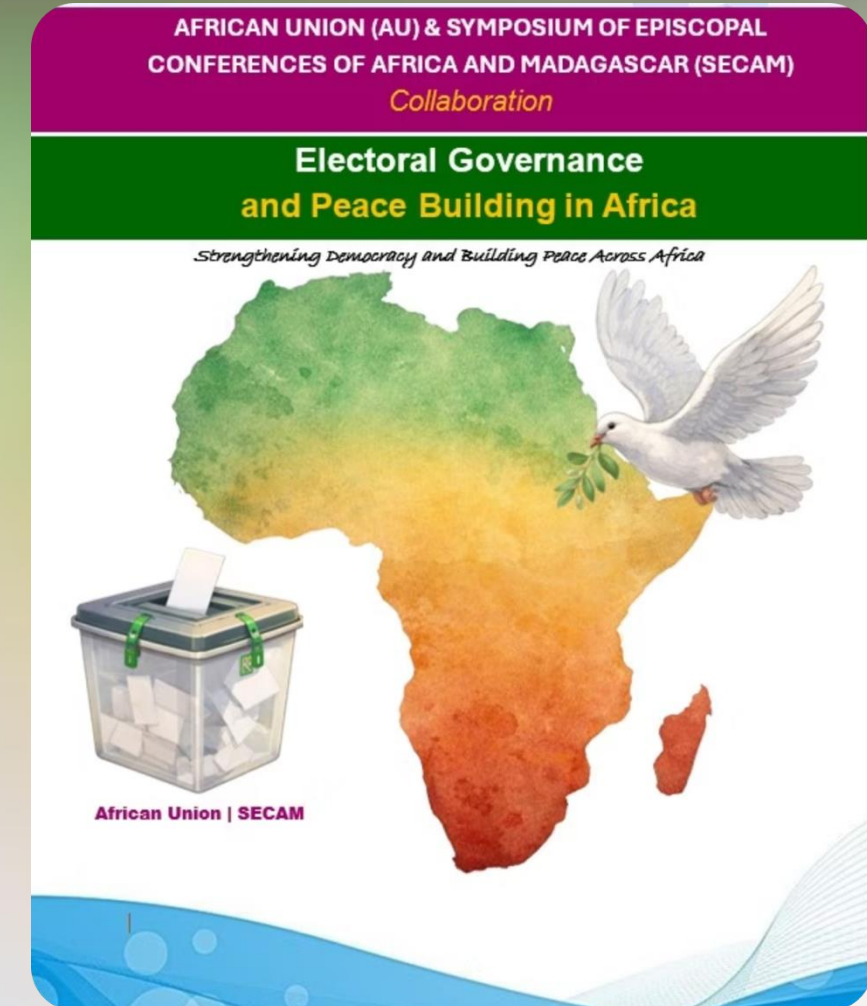
Electoral Governance and Peacebuilding in Africa

What It Promotes

- Credible and peaceful elections
- Democratic transitions across the continent

Key Activities

- Dialogue platforms for electoral stakeholders
- Electoral observation support
- Policy engagement with AU governance structures



SECAM AU Think Tank

A continental platform for **research, policy analysis, and strategic reflection** on Africa's most pressing challenges.



Governance & Democracy



Peace & Security



**Environment & Integral
Ecology**



Migration & Human Dignity



Youth & Women

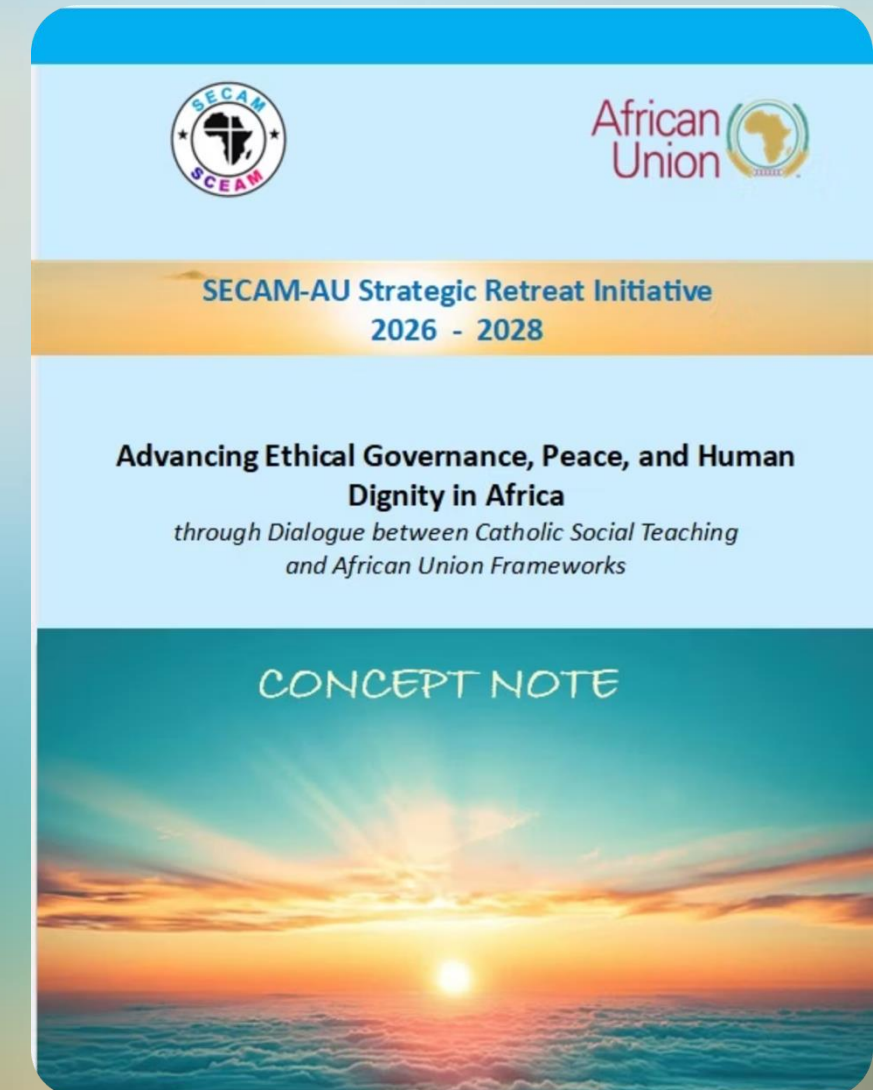
Capacity Building in Catholic Social Teaching

Who Is Trained

AU officials and stakeholders are trained in the **principles of Catholic Social Teaching** and the **ethics of governance and development**.

Training Formats

- Retreats for deep reflection
- Workshops for practical application
- Policy dialogues for institutional engagement





Conclusion

The SECAM AU Liaison Office embodies a **faith-based diplomatic presence** at the AU and a **strategic partner for Africa's transformation**.

Human Dignity

Upholding the inherent worth of every African person through policy and action.

Peace & Justice

Contributing to lasting peace, reconciliation, and justice across the continent.

Sustainable Development

Aligning faith perspectives with Africa's long-term development agenda.

The mission is to ensure that **faith perspectives meaningfully shape Africa's future.**