



SECRETARIA GENERALIS  
SYNODI

Ufficio Stampa

E-mail: [media@synod.va](mailto:media@synod.va)  
Tel.: (+39) 06 698.84324/84821  
<https://www.synod.va>  
<https://www.synodresources.org>  
<https://www.prayforthesynod.va>

## CONFERENZA STAMPA di presentazione dell' *Instrumentum laboris* per la prima sessione della XVI Assemblea Generale Ordinaria del Sinodo dei Vescovi, 20 giugno 2023

Testimonianza di **Don Rafael Simbine Junior**, Segretario Generale del SECAM (Simposio delle Conferenze Episcopali d'Africa e Madagascar)

Il testo verrà letto da Sr. **Ester Lucas**, membro dell'Equipe sinodale del SECAM, Comitato Teologico

### SHARING THE AFRICAN PREPARATION PLAN FOR THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The African Synodal Continental Assembly marked a significant milestone in the journey of the Church in Africa towards embracing synodality. It provided an inclusive platform for delegates from across Africa and its islands to engage in a spiritual synodal journey, guided by the Document for the Continental Stage (DCS). In preparation for the Synod on Synodality in Rome, the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM), in collaboration with the African Synodality Initiative (ASI), has planned a seminar to prepare SECAM's delegates.

Through this seminar, we hope to help SECAM delegates achieve many things. First, to acquire a deep knowledge and clear understanding of the *Instrumentum Laboris* for the Synodal Assembly and its implications for the Church in Africa. Second, to deepen the use of the Conversation in the Spirit, drawing on the experiences from the African Synodal Continental Assembly, in order to foster meaningful and inclusive conversations, and active listening and dialogue as essential elements of synodality. Third, to review and reflect on the African Synodal Document, which was adopted as the official document for the African Church during the Continental Assembly, in order to deepen delegates' familiarity with its content and recommendations and to ensure its integration into their contributions and conversations during the Synodal Assembly. Finally, to reflect on critical and important African issues to be shared during the Synod, including unique challenges, aspirations and contributions of the Church in Africa, thus enabling the African delegation to speak with a united voice and effectively address the concerns of the Church in the African context.

We hope that an enhanced understanding of the *Instrumentum Laboris* by SECAM delegates will enable them to actively contribute to conversations during the Synodal Assembly. Also, the African delegation will be equipped to identify and articulate with clarity and depth key African issues, ensuring that the concerns, challenges and aspirations of the Church in Africa are well represented during the Synodal Assembly.

During this seminar, ASI and SECAM will equip the African delegation with the necessary knowledge, skills and perspectives to actively contribute to the Synodal Assembly in Rome. This seminar will reinforce the spirit of synodality and ensure that the Church in Africa speaks with one voice on the issues that concern it in order to shape the future of the Church and address the specific challenges and opportunities in the African ecclesial context.