Annual Report
2019

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AACC’s STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

VISION
Churches in Africa together for Life, Peace, Justice and Dignity.

MISSION
The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) is a fellowship of churches and institutions in Africa working together in their common witness to the Gospel by:
- Mobilizing to faithfully live the message of God’s love;
- Nurturing a common understanding of the faith;
- Interpreting and responding to challenges to human dignity;
- and, Acting prophetically in word, life and service for healing.

CORE VALUES
In obedience to God and the imperatives of the Gospel, we are committed to operate with integrity, in the spirit of love and respecting the dignity and God’s image in every human being.

ORGANIZATIONAL PRINCIPLES
Our Principles: AACC works through and with member churches in the continent in the following ways:
- We address issues facing the people of the African continent;
- We are proactive and prophetic in the accompaniment of churches in Africa;
- We engage in discernment for and promotion of positive transformation;
- We are issue-driven and focus on result oriented programs;
- We mobilize our constituency to speak jointly on issues affecting the people of the African Continent;
- We are committed to the ecumenical vocation and in facilitating synergy amongst our members and with the people of Africa;
  - We encourage creativity and innovation in our programmatic work We are committed to promoting and defending African dignity
  - We encourage creativity and innovation in our programmatic work
  - We are committed to promoting and defending African dignity
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki, the new General Secretary, took office in January 2019 and began the implementation of the AACC’s 2019-2023 strategy.

The executive committee, board of trustees, finance and personnel committees met in 2019 as required by AACC’s Constitution.

Five new AACC members namely; Communauté Evangélique Mennonite du Congo (Evangelical Mennonite church of Congo), Apostolic Pentecostal Church International, Liberia, Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, Eglise Lutherienne du Senegal (Lutheran Church of Senegal) and the Church of the Lord (Prayer Fellowship) Togo, were admitted by the executive committee. Furthermore, enhanced networking and relationship with existing members and partners, lead to AACC receiving Sustainable Partners’ Award by Christian Council of Nigeria (member church), as well as a rising interest by international organizations to partner with AACC.

A particularly encouraging development during the year was the training of 85 church leaders in Benin, Kenya and Mozambique on Human Resource and Leadership Development for Diakonia and Development by Theology, Interfaith and Ecclesial Leadership Development department. In addition, 109 theologians, church leaders and practitioners drawn from 30 countries participated in the first ever symposium on Misleading Theologies that took place in Kenya. Also noteworthy was AACC’s participation in member churches and partners’ events in Zambia, Mozambique, Germany and Cameroon.

Moreover, a survey of graduates who had previously attended AACC’s Theological Institute, revealed an overwhelming endorsement with participants requesting AACC to continue training young theologians through the Theological Institute.

Furthermore, AACC implemented a wide range of activities in its mission for peace, youth and women empowerment, gender equality and plight of widows’ programmes. Such activities include silencing the guns, developing AACC’s gender strategy and engendered women, peace and security framework (WPS), participating in the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), 16 days of activism against gender violence as well as the interfaith youth movement for peace in Burundi.

In its drive for peace and sustainable development in Africa, especially countries in conflict, AACC convened consultative meetings and peace missions through the revitalisation of Eminent Persons Ecumenical Programme for Peace in Africa, as well as a workshop to reflect on the overlap between refugees, internally displaced persons and human trafficking.

The Advocacy at African Union programme was reconfigured, restructured and new staff employed to provide leadership at the AACC AU Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As a result, AACC’s visibility, engagement and joint activities with AU increased substantially. These activities include oral and written presentation to the AU Peace and Security Council (PS), open sessions on the Protection of civilians from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, engaging with the AU process for the Africa position on population and development as well as representation in the Namibia consultations.

The main roles of the Regional Office in Lomé continued to be relationship and capacity building, networking, facilitation and engagement with member churches in West and Central Africa. As part of sustaining relationships and networking, the general secretary visited the regional office for solidarity and support with constituents in the sub-regions.
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki was inducted to the General Secretary’s office, during the 11th General Assembly held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2018. He took up the role on 7 January 2019. The broad and strategic focus of the general secretary’s office continued to be general leadership as well as management of the implementation of the strategy (2019-2023).

Governance

The general secretary led the first executive committee meeting. The meeting come up with three statements on the situation in Cameroon, Zimbabwe and countries under the East African Community (EAC). The committee asked members to represent the organization more frequently, in member churches and institutions’ events.

Following this decision, Rt. Rev. Prof Edwin Zulu, the Vice-President for the southern Africa region, attended the opening of the workshop on entrepreneurship organized by Gender Women and Youth Department in Zambia. Similarly, Rev. Olga Maria Choto Ranchaze, a member of the general committee from Mozambique, represented the general secretary in the celebration of the 70 years anniversary of the Christian Council in Mozambique where she gave a presentation about the new AACC’s strategic focus.

The AACC President, Bishop Emeritus Arnold Temple, also represented AACC and WCC in the United Nations Environment Assembly held in March in Nairobi, Kenya. His most recent assignment was a fact-finding mission to Cameroon, together with Archbishop Emeritus Onesphore Rwaje who represented the Vice-President for Central Africa, Archbishop Martin Nyaboho.

The second executive committee meeting held in November, agreed, that the AACC Board of Trustees, be invited to the consecutive general committee members meeting for networking purposes. It was also decided that a governance training for all AACC governing bodies, and the next general committee meeting, be held in May 2020.

The finance and personnel committee and board of trustees met on 24 April and 29 April, 2019 respectively, shortly after the first executive committee meeting.

Membership development

There was a remarkable growth in AACC’s membership. Five new member churches joined AACC, bringing the total number of membership to 198 by the end of 2019. This success is attributable to elaborate and coordinated networking and membership engagement in different fora.

The general secretary visited two AACC member churches in Ethiopia, namely the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church (Mekane Yesus), to revive relationship with the member churches.

He also addressed the 19th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana held in August, and attended the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations Conference held in May. He reported on
the outcomes of the executive committee meeting to the churches in Zimbabwe, gathered to reflect on how they could be involved in national dialogue process.

Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki, the General Secretary, together with Rt. Rev Arnold Temple, the President of AACC, attended the 30th General Assembly and the 90th Anniversary of the Christian Council of Nigeria. The general secretary received an award for reliable partnership from the Christian Council of Nigeria on behalf of AACC. Moreover, he was involved in the consultation on Migration and Human Trafficking, held in Nigeria, which brought together participants from member churches in West and Central Africa region.

Likewise, he attended Peace, Sustainable Development and Leadership workshop in Monrovia, Liberia. The Consultation on Peace gathered representatives from Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

## Communication and Networking

### Partners’ Consultation

AACC held its annual consultation with partners in Kenya, attended by 20 participants from 13 partner organizations. AACC took the opportunity to present its strategy (2019-2023) and explored areas of further collaboration. Furthermore, a pool of partners and stakeholders that would be interested in collaborating on the new strategic focus were identified.

### Visits from Partners

AACC received visitors from a number of strategic partners. These included; the African Christian Health Association Platform (ACHAP), Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA), the Organization
of African Instituted Churches (OAIC), Faith to Action Network, Tear Fund Africa office, ACT Alliance, Norwegian Church Aid Africa Office, Church World Service, the Global Christian Forum, Outreach Ministries and the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA). As a result of the visit, AACC and CAPA began a partnership to implement two programme areas.

Moreover, several current and potential partners reached out and expressed interest in partnering with AACC. These included; Church World Service in Nairobi, The Amity Foundation (Christian Relief and Development Organization) in Nanjing, China, Danmission (Denmark), Tear fund (UK), Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations (CCRDA), Uniting World (Australia), World Student Christian Federation, African Council of Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace (ACRL – RfP), Evangelical Church in Germany, World Council of Churches (WCC), Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy (EHAIA), UN Women, The Methodist Church of Great Britain, Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, United Methodist Church in South Sudan, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, Council for World Mission (CWM – Sudan), Popular Aid For Relief and Development (PARD), Presbyterian Church of Korea and Bread for the World.

Further networking and collaboration initiatives were initiated, such as the revival of the relationship with the sub-regional fellowships such as FECCIWA, FOCCISA and FECLAH.

**Visit to Sister Institution**

The Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF) an organisation owned by AACC and the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), requested AACC to recruit an executive director on its behalf. Consequently, the
general secretary made a trip to MEF in Kitwe, Zambia to access its needs in order to gain deeper understanding before effectively recruiting an ideal candidate. Consequently, a transparent and competitive process of recruitment involving Rev Canon Chikoya, Chairperson of the MEF board, who is also the General Secretary of the CCZ was done. Rev. Dr Hoyce Mbowe, from Tanzania was selected and unanimously appointed by the board in October 2019. She assumed office in January 2020.

Visits to Partners
AACC partners that changed their strategic focus and organizational leadership structure engaged AACC to communicate the changes and ensure effective transition at all levels. To that effect, the general secretary met with Ms Imke-Friedericke Tiemann-Middleton, from BftW, who took over from Ms Monika Redecker. He also participated in the Synod of Mission 21 in Basel, Switzerland.

AACC’s Visibility
Visibility and felt impact of AACC’s work considerably improved. This saw many partners collaborating with AACC to implement various projects, growth in membership to the organisation, as well as increased engagement at the African Union Commission, diplomatic community as well as AACC constituency. Besides, online engagement with the website and social media platforms increased.

Highlights of other key activities attended by the General Secretary:

- A meeting of Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) pastors working in various countries in Africa held in Kenya.
- A workshop of EKD synod members held in Kenya, organised by Bread for the World.
- Visited Church of Sweden and met various heads of department.
- The Speakers Tour, where he made a series of presentations on the African ‘Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want,’ in various cities in Germany.
- Attended the Kirchentag, a bi-annual meeting of evangelical churches in Germany. Both the Speakers’ Tour and the Kirchentag were opportunities to interact with prominent church and government actors in Germany.
- Meeting of general secretaries of regional ecumenical organizations convened by WCC in Bossey, Switzerland.
- Together with AACC’s President, attended the 10th World Assembly of Religions for Peace in Lindau, Germany. They also attended the farewell party for Rev. Christoph Anders, former director of Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland (EMW) in Hamburg, Germany.
- Several meetings in Berlin including Bread for the World, and Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany to explore partnerships on the issue of population and peace in Cameroon.
• Invited by the Lutheran World Federation to give keynote address at the global meeting of the Waking the Giant, an ecumenical initiative on Churches’ involvement with the implementation of SDGs, held in Monrovia, Liberia.

• Made his inaugural visit to the Lomé office where he oversaw handover process by Rev. Dr Simon Dossou, Regional Representative, whose contract term had ended. He also held meetings with key government officials whilst in Togo.

Staff Matters

The executive committee appointed four members of staff namely; Rev. Dr Lesmore Gibson Ezekiel, Rev Charles Berahino, Mr Collins Shava and Mr Gorden Simango. Some reassignments saw Ms Afiwa Allahare from the general secretary’s office move to focus on migration and human trafficking while Ms Evelyne Okunda was engaged as the Executive Assistant to the general secretary. At the end of the year, upon completion of Rev. Dr Simon Dossou’s term, Ms Allahare was reassigned to serve as the regional representative of AACC at the regional office in Togo.

As part of AACC staff development and capacity building, all members attended a planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting skills training as well as a two-day staff planning retreat that resulted into design of effective and coordinated projects planned for 2020.
THEOLOGY, INTERFAITH RELATIONS AND ECCLESIAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

Theology, Interfaith Relations and Ecclesial Leadership Development, was one of the AACC’s programmatic pillars identified, following the launch of the new AACC Strategy (2019–2023).

Main thematic areas of the programme are as follows: Ecumenical formation, addressing misleading theologies, interfaith interventions and ecclesial leadership development.

Activities Planned and Undertaken

Ecclesial Leadership Development

Human resource and leadership development seminar for diakonia and development (Benin, Kenya and Mozambique)

AACC, in collaboration with the World Council of Churches, focused on the ecclesial leadership development in three (3) regions, namely Francophone, Anglophone and Lusophone.

A three-day workshop for francophone members, mainly in Central and Western Africa region (DRC, Gabon, Togo, Central Africa Republic, Congo, Benin and Burundi), Anglophone members from East and Southern Africa region (Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, Botswana, South Africa, Rwanda, Malawi, Lesotho, Ghana and Kenya) as well as Portuguese speaking countries, mainly Angola and Mozambique, took place. Eighty-five participants were trained as follows: 30 Francophone, 30 Anglophone and 25 Portuguese.

Key lessons identified at the workshop included, the role of character development for effective leadership, the need for church leaders to apply biblical principles such as planning, management and human resource management in order to be effective leaders. Moreover, creative leadership as a transformational power in creating work environments that inspire innovation and creativity as well as servant leadership as a call to serve and to lead were identified.
Presentation of Papers in Various Colloquiums

AACC presented two papers authored by Prof Bosela Eale in separate colloquiums as follows: The Place of the Agenda 2063 in the challenges faced by institutions providing theological education. This paper was presented during the International Conference on Current Trends in Theological Studies organised by the Africa Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, in collaboration with the Faculty of Theology of the Protestant University in Congo, and the Christian Scholars Society.

The second paper on, Place and Role of Family in Africa Today was submitted to the Families, Gospel and Cultures in a Changing World colloquium organised by the Cevaa at the Protestant University of Central Africa in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Interfaith Interventions

Interfaith Relations Activities with AU Interfaith Dialogue Forum Steering Committee

AACC continued to be a member of Interfaith Dialogue Forum Steering Committee at the African Union. As a result, AACC was represented at the African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum (AU-IFDF) annual meeting in Maputo in Mozambique.

Symposium on Misleading Theologies

AACC held its first theological symposium on Misleading Theologies, in Nairobi, Kenya, in response to
new unbiblical and controversial practices that become common use in churches in Africa and beyond. Theologians from 30 countries in Africa including some from diaspora and ecumenical partners were represented in the symposium.

The symposium created a platform for church leaders as well as lay and ordained theologians to identify, analyse and deconstruct misleading theologies on the continent focusing on four thematic areas to discuss how church leadership can best address the misleading theologies.

The following four thematic areas were developed in the symposium: health and healing, wealth and poverty, power and authority and government regulations on religious institutions.

**Ecumenical formation**

**Tracer study on graduates of Theological Institute**

A tracer research was carried out to trace young theologians who had been previously trained since 2008 at AACC Theological Institute. The focus was on the ecumenical formation of young generations of theologians towards leadership and responsibility in the church and the ecumenical movement.

The research revealed an overwhelming endorsement with participants requesting AACC to continue training young theologians through the Theological Institute, as it helps nurture young leaders in the church and prepares young theologians for leadership roles in member churches, ecumenical organizations and beyond, among other benefits.

**Reviving Editions Cle**

The legal documents that guided operations of the Editions Cle were amended for submission to the General Assembly in March 2019. Consequently, Editions Cle revived and began its mandate of publishing quality theological, biblical and cultural materials and resources in the French language as well as implementation of humanitarian work.

**Consultation for Theological Network Associations in Africa**

A two-day consultation of the Association of Theological Institution in Africa was held in Botswana. The associations took stock of the past 5 years and explored how they can become self-sustainable. All five associations, ATIEA (East Africa), ATISCA (Southern Africa), WAATI (Western Africa), ASTHEOL (Central Africa Region) and ASTHEOL (West Africa Region) were present.
Introduction

AACC seeks to restore human dignity and wholeness with particular emphasis on gender justice and equality as outlined in the AACC’s Strategic Plan (2019-2023).

Grounded in the Biblical principle that women and men are made in the image of God (Gen 1:27), AACC, through the department of gender, women and youth, collaborates with churches and other stakeholders to affirm the human dignity and wholeness of women and men, as evidenced in the following activities carried out in 2019.

Activities Planned and Undertaken

Engagement with UN Women and AU

- UN Women ESARO Partners’ Cooperation Agreement, was finalized.
- AACC designed a monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress and measure performance of AACC’s Engendered Peace and Security Strategy and began a rollout process with support from UN Women. As a result, AACC developed gender strategy as well as an implementation matrix for an engendered women, peace and security framework (WPS).
- AACC was successful in influencing gender justice, policy level at the AU, through its active participation in the development of AU Strategy for gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE). As a follow up, Rev. Dr Lydia Mwaniki, Director, Gender, Women and Youth, and a member of the Steering Committee, represented AACC on a validation meeting for the Result Framework, and the Regional Harmonization Matrix of the AU GEWE Strategy. The AUC Women, Gender and Development Directorate (AUC WGDD) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia organized the meeting.
- AACC took part in a workshop on Civil Society Organizations Engagement Framework in Implementing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, organized by the gender peace and security program of the Africa Union, in Nairobi, Kenya, to enhance the role of women in peace processes in Africa.
- AACC was represented at the Interfaith Dialogue on Preventing Violent Extremism held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to deliberate on innovative youthful approaches, for preventing violent extremism (PVE), through drawing on the soft power of religion. The African Union Citizens-Diaspora Directorate (AUC-CIDO) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) supported the engagement.
- AACC was invited as a significant stakeholder to the AU-ECOSSOC Annual Statutory Livingstone Formula Consultation with focus on the AU Decade of Silencing the Guns
in Africa by 2020. Different issues militating against peace and security in Africa were deliberated. There were presentations from different perspectives and contexts on violence, terrorism, extremism, proliferation of SALW and illicit finance. There was also a presentation on the state of the campaign on silencing the guns.

Youth Engagement

The Council of Churches in Zambia hosted sensitization forum on entrepreneurial culture and self-sustainability for women and youth entrepreneurs. Thirty-two participants drawn from member churches in the southern Africa Region.

URCSA Christian Youth Ministry 7th General Congress

Mr. Collins Kudakwashe Shava, AACC’s Executive Secretary –Youth, attended the URCSA Christian Youth Ministry’s Seventh General Congress in Secunda, Mpumalanga, South Africa, to offer ecumenical support to the youths in mobilizing young people from URCSA towards supporting the continental ecumenical youth movement.

Silencing the Guns in Africa

AACC hosted 46 youths from East Africa for a forum on Silencing the Guns in Africa Initiative, with support by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) under the regional peace programme. During the forum, youths developed an advocacy statement to the African Union Commission directed to the African Union Heads of State 2020 Summit. They also initiated a campaign to collect 5000 youth signatures to call for more action from the AU member states to honour their commitment on Silencing the Guns by 2020. The signatures will be submitted to the AU commission in May 2020.
**All Africa Youth Congress in 2020**

AACC’s general secretary made a special visit to H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, the former President of Nigeria. He accepted AACC’s request to be the Patron of the upcoming All African Youth Congress, to be held in Ghana in 2020. Moreover, AACC convened an interdepartmental taskforce that will lead the processes of hosting the All Africa Youth Congress in 2020 and thereafter, a campaign dubbed Africa: My Home, My Future that will inspire young people on African Patriotism.

**Interfaith Youth Movement for Peace**

AACC through the East Africa Regional Peace Program supported by Norwegian Church Aid, initiated an interfaith youth movement for peace in Burundi. In collaboration with the Burundi Council of Churches, AACC organized a workshop to sensitize young people on the importance of peace in Burundi, where 45 young people from the Islamic community, protestant churches and catholic attended the workshop.

As a follow up to the workshop, the interfaith youth movement for peace organized soccer, netball and arts competitions with young people from different faith groups in Bujumbura to promote peace ahead of Burundi’s general election in 2020.

**The Taize Pilgrimage**

AACC participated in the Taize Pilgrimage in Cape Town, South Africa where 2300 young adults from South Africa and other nations attended. Through the event, AACC learnt valuable lessons that would come in handy when organising and hosting the All Africa Youth Congress.

**Youth Essay Competition**

AACC and the WCC invited young Africans to participate in an essay competition, Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, for the African regional publication. This resulted from a call by the 10th Assembly of the WCC, toward transforming injustices and violence.
Africans from the continent, and the diaspora aged 35 years and below were invited to submit their essays. Thirty-two submissions were received and reviewed and 14 essays selected to be published in ‘The Africa We Pray For: On a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, which will form part of the pilgrimage’s regional harvests to be displayed at the WCC’s 11th Assembly, in 2021.

**Women**

**Highlighting the Plight of Widows in the Continent**

AACC, the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), in collaboration with the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross and Ruth Ministry, organized two separate workshops, where contextual bible study methodology was employed. Participants drew and shared best practices in addressing the plight of widows both from the bible and from their experiences.

This culminated into an ecumenical service, in which AACC launched its awareness campaign for the Plight of Widows. CCZ church leaders developed a communique and committed themselves to addressing the plight of widows in Zambia. CCZ national team of widows was formed with leaders drawn from each member church. Moreover, the Government of Zambia committed to collaborate with CCZ to address the plight of widows in the country. Besides, a documentary to create awareness of the plight of widows was disseminated.

**Small grants to empower widows**

Eight churches each received an incentive of $2000 dollars to stimulate and encourage activities targeting widows. Some grantees shared success stories of ways in which the grant was used to support widows. Notably, the Anglican Church of Burundi – Gatumba Parish within the Diocese of Bujumbura. The church supported 20 widows and their orphaned children for socio economic integration. Forty goats were provided to 20 families, each family receiving two goats, one for breeding and another one for business purposes.

Twenty women receive two goats each in Gatumba Anglican parish in rural Bujumbura, Burundi. Some women sent their children to receive the goats on their behalf.
Out of the Shadows Capacity Building Workshop on Ending Sexual Violence against Children

AACC and WCC in collaboration with Council of Churches in Nigeria, and the Council of Churches in Tanzania conducted two separate workshops in Nigeria and Tanzania respectively for church leaders on Out of the Shadows report, based on the findings of the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), on sexual violence against children.

The workshops interrogated the data from the Out of the Shadows, calling for an effective response to the finding, and support through churches and inter-religious partners. To that effect, a communique was developed by each Council of Churches, which committed church leaders in collaboration with their governments and other stakeholders to end sexual violence against children. Moreover, the participants finalized a church-sensitive advocacy, poster and stickers with toll-free helpline numbers.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

AACC, WCC-EHAIA and EDAN collaborated to conduct a series of activities during the 16 days of activism, against gender-based violence. The Thursdays in Black campaign was carried out, mobilizing member churches on HIV and Aids, and disability, as well as creating awareness on sexual and gender based violence.

Moreover, AACC collaborated with the Mothers’ Union of Namirembe Diocese in Uganda to commemorate the World Aids Day on 1st December, which falls within the 16 days of activism.
39th Annual Meeting of the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC)

AACC hosted the 39th Annual Meeting of the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) in Ghana. This was the second time Africa was hosting the conference since its inception in 1956.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christian women together in prayer for peace and justice, demonstrating solidarity with one another through common concern. Its aim is to reflect on issues of peace, reconciliation, justice and empowerment of women.

Action Learning Trajectory

As part of the greater State of African Women Campaign (SOAWC), Faith to Action Network invited AACC’s Gender Women and Youth department to participate in action-learning trajectory in Belgium, to document policy change and strategic approaches taken by faith institutions, reflect on the achievements and challenges of the campaign, as well as document experiences and lessons learned from individual projects.

Participation in ICPD+25

52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD52)

AACC was represented in the 52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD52), as part of faith delegation, co-sponsored by Act Alliance, Church of Sweden and Faith to Action Network, held in May in New York, USA. Faith actors shared best practices in addressing issues of SRHR, gender justice and human rights through panel discussions and other forms of interaction.

1The SoAWC is a 3-year EU sponsored advocacy, communication and awareness raising campaign, focusing on increasing civil society's contributions to promote the implementation of the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women (Maputo Protocol) and the Maputo Plan of Action (MPoA) at four decision-making levels i.e. continental, regional, national and sub-national levels.
Rev. Dr Mwaniki presented on the AACC’s strategic focus on gender work. She also read the oral statements on behalf of the faith actors at the plenary.

Faith delegates lobbied for their participation at the Nairobi Summit. The CPD52 session, inspired AACC to organize faith organizations representing Africa to participate fully at the Nairobi Summit.

**Youth Consultative Meeting on ICPD**

AACC in collaboration with ACT Alliance hosted a regional youth consultation in Nairobi, Kenya on the ICPD. Thirty-five young people from different parts of the continent and organizations participated in this meeting to strategize on their impactful engagement during the main conference. Some of the young people who participated in this meeting also attended the Nairobi ICPD summit as part of AACC’s youth team.

**ICPD Faith Pre – Summit**


A common understanding on the ICPD Programme of Action by all participants was generated; a commitment document that reflects the specific roles of the faith actors from Africa as allies in achieving ICPD Programme of Action was developed, as well as a press release on the communique, which was presented by Rev. Dr Mwaniki, on behalf of the faith leaders.
The 25th Anniversary of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

(ICPD+25 or Nairobi Summit) was hosted in Nairobi, Kenya, by the Government of Kenya, Denmark AND UNFPA on 12-14 November 2019.

The conference offered an inclusive platform for a broad range of public and private sector stakeholders including heads of states, civil society, faith-based organizations (FBOs) and youth, among others, to recommit to achieving three zeros:

- Zero maternal deaths
- Zero unmet need for family planning
- Zero GBV and harmful practices

Faith actors took part in various Summit sessions ranging from panel of discussants to sharing best practices to plenary sessions to issuance of a position statement on SRHR with a view of enriching the outcome document.

Faith leaders read their commitments to implement ICPD PoA in a plenary session, 13 November Nairobi, Kenya.
PEACE, DIAKONIA AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

Peace, Diakonia and Development is a paramount programmatic track for human well-being and societal transformation. Through the program, AACC hopes to accompany member churches and institutions on conflict prevention, deepening culture of peace, confronting economic injustices, mitigating effects of climate change, advocating for sustainable population for sustainable development, responding to the challenges of irregular migration and human trafficking, institutionalization of diakonia work, and engaging with global and continental development goals.

Activities planned and undertaken

Peace and solidarity visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo

A joint delegation from the AACC, the CAPA, the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECLAH) led by Bishop Arnold C. Temple (AACC President) visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo on a peace and solidarity mission in partnership with the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC).

The delegation led by the AACC President, held productive talks with the representatives from Church of Christ in Congo, Honourable Martin Fayulu, (presidential aspirant who lost the presidential election), the Forum of AACC and WCC member-churches in DRC, the Commission for Integrity and Electoral Mediation (CIME), the United Nations Mission for the Stabilization of Congo (MONUSCO), the outgoing Prime Minister, as well as the Chairman of the Electoral Commission (CENI).

Convening the Ecumenical Network of South Sudan, Africa Hub

Ecumenical Network of South Sudan, Africa-Hub was convened in June. FECCLAH, a member organisation of AACC that had previously hosted the Hub, handed back the hosting to AACC. Consequently, AACC convened three meetings of the Hub, where participating organizations continued to reflect together on the best ways to act as a Hub.

A task force made of nine people was put in place to conduct a thorough and deep contextual analysis on South Sudan. The taskforce proposed short and long terms interventions for the Network to accompany the churches and council of churches in South Sudan.
Ecumenical Pastoral Care for South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda

Bishop Yona Katoneene, AACC’s Ecumenical Accompanier to South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda, appointed in 2017 for the pastoral role, retired. The Accompanier had the primary tasks of providing pastoral care, solidarity and advocacy engagement for humanitarian support for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda.

During his term Bishop Yona carried out advocacy actions for humanitarian support for the refugees, including pastoral solidarity visits to South Sudanese refugee settlements, engaging regional political leaders, campaigning against the use of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), in addition to observing and commemorating special days such as the Justice Week and International Day of Peace.

Consultative meetings on peace

Peace and Sustainable Development Consultative meetings

AACC conducted three regional consultative meetings on Peace and Sustainable Development for church leaders drawn from member churches as well as general secretaries of the Councils of represented countries. The meetings were held in Ghana, with delegates from (Ghana, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria); Angola, Lusophone region (Angola and Mozambique) and Francophone (Benin, Togo, CAR, DRC, Gabon, Cameroon, and Congo Brazzaville) countries.

Concerted local approaches in peacebuilding and conflict transformation

AACC held a workshop on concerted local approaches in peacebuilding and conflict transformation in Nairobi, Kenya. It brought together 70 peace program implementers from AACC constituencies, both Francophone and Anglophone regions. Participants developed country action plans on peace-building.
was attended by member churches and councils from Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone and Monrovia. Each country committed to conduct a case study on the issue of peace, security and development.

**Strategy Meeting of the Ecumenical Forum on Cameroon**

Ecumenical and confessional organizations, including AACC, WCC, World Communion of Reformed Churches, Mission 21, Basel Mission Germany and Presbyterian Church of Cameroon, organised a series of meetings to respond to intractable violence and brutal attacks on innocent people in the Anglophone region of Cameroon. Concrete actions were agreed upon including an ecumenical pastoral solidarity visit to Cameroon in March 2020.

**International Day of Peace**

AACC organized a special worship service to commemorate the International Day of Peace. The theme for the year was ‘Climate Action for Peace’. A representative of one of AACC’s partner organization presented a keynote paper during the special worship. As a way of demonstrating AACC’s commitment to environmental stewardship, a ten action points was outline on a flier and mass-produced for circulation.

**Deployment of Eminent Persons for peace missions**

AACC organized orientation for the selected eminent persons before they proceeded for the solidarity visit to Burundi. During the orientation, a contextual analysis was presented by an expert on Burundi, in order to prepare and help the team understand some of critical socio-political issues of the country.

The orientation took place in Nairobi, Kenya before the Eminent Persons departed for a solidarity visit to Burundi on 3rd December 2019. One of the high points of the visit was the meeting with the team of Catholic Bishops under the umbrella of Catholic Bishops Conference of Burundi.
Besides, representatives from all the five member churches of AACC in South Sudan came to Nairobi from 2-3 December 2019 for an interface with the eminent persons. Contextual presentation on the situation in South Sudan was presented and action plans were developed and shared with the Ecumenical Network for South Sudan- African Hub chaired by AACC.

**Migration and human trafficking**

- AACC carried out a fact-finding round trip to Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali on the situation and plights of migrants and returnees, to gather evidence that would guide in programming towards addressing the menace of irregular migration and human trafficking. It was found that, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso were origins, major transit routes, as well as destinations to some of the irregular migrants in the migration mobility trajectory.

- AACC was represented in a conference organized by HAART Kenya - Awareness against Human Trafficking, to discuss the overlapping issues between several categories of people on the move, especially refugees, internally displaced persons and victims of human trafficking.

- AACC collaborated with CAPA to carry out Anglican Migration and Human Trafficking Community of Practice Workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa. AACC took the opportunity to share their activities and plans on migration and human trafficking and meet practitioners working with people at grassroots level.

- AACC participated as a strategic African partner, in Act Alliance Migration and Displacement Workshop to learn about regional and global policy processes, including the recently endorsed Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), their follow-up and implementation mechanisms, and their relative significance for members working with refugees and migrants.
ADVOCACY AT THE AFRICAN UNION

Introduction

The Liaison Office at the African Union serves as a conduit for the voice of the AACC and its constituency towards the African Union Commission (AUC) and the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa. Its work extends to AU structures across the continent such as the Regional Economic blocks (RECs) and others. It is involved in lobby and advocacy work towards implementation of Agenda 2063, including commitments made to regional, international standards and laws by African governments. It speaks to their implementation thereof and enforces the moral and prophetic voice of the church towards addressing issues facing the continent of Africa and its peoples.

Much of the energy in 2019 went towards aspiration number four (4) of Agenda 2063: “A peaceful and secure Africa,” and aspiration number six (6) “An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.” Focus was on understanding the advocacy work of the AACC constituency, through mapping and regional consultations with the Southern, Eastern, Central and West Africa regions, including a continental Africa-wide consultation.

The programme areas of work for advocacy at the African Union comprise Agenda 2063, Migration and Human Trafficking, Population and Development, Representation of Faith-based Organizations’ Voice, and the New African Debt Crisis. A director was hired, to lead the work at the AACC Liaison Office at the African Union in Addis Ababa, and started work on 14 July 2019.

Planned Activities Undertaken

Mapping of Advocacy Infrastructure on the Continent

A directory of the AACC constituency advocacy actors was completed. Data collected from the regions for the directory was validated, and the potential of the directory as a ready reference resource highly supported. The directory is set be published in the first quarter of 2020.

Dialogue, engagement and discourse on the status of the geopolitics in the Africa regions, reignited participants’ attention to the advocacy needs in Africa.

1 AGENDA 2063 is Africa’s blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future. It is the continent’s strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance. The genesis of Agenda 2063 was the realization by African leaders that there was a need to refocus and reprioritize Africa’s agenda from the struggle against apartheid and the attainment of political independence for the continent which had been the focus of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the precursor of the African Union; and instead to prioritize inclusive social and economic development, continental and regional integration, democratic governance and peace and security amongst other issues aimed at repositioning Africa to becoming a dominant player in the global arena. (https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview; accessed on 02/02/2020)
Regional Advocacy Framework Consultations

Advocacy framework consultations have resulted into connections and networking in the constituency. An example is the Southern Africa Region WhatsApp group, created following consultations with that region at end of 2019. The group was instrumental in information sharing especially on the region’s context and in seeking moral support among members. The AACC Youth Forum on Silencing the Guns WhatsApp group has continued to perpetuate the work together, but also as a medium to engage with the AUC on a number of initiatives, especially those that use social media platforms.

Moreover, the role of the church in society was emphasized strongly especially as pertains continental consultation, namely engaging with Public Theology and its engagement with African Union structures such as the Pan African Parliament based in South Africa. There were also stronger calls to engage with the theme of the AU 2020 heads of states and governments of Silencing the Guns by 2020.

As a result of engaging with the AUC, AACC recognition in the AUC increased to the extent of having more invitations from AUC departments. Moreover, the AUC staff began engaging and participating in a number of AACC events. Most notable, was the participation of the AUC Peace and Security Department Silencing the Guns Initiative Secretariat in the AACC Youth Forum on Silencing the Guns consultation of November, as well as the participation of the AUC Conflict Early Warning Systems in the Peace and Security department, at the AACC Continental Advocacy Framework Workshop.

Additionally, the visibility and presence of the AACC in Addis is increasing both in Addis with the AUC and diplomatic community, as well as in the AACC constituency.

Participation in the African Union Commission (AUC) and its Structures, Including the Diplomatic Community in Addis Ababa

AACC made written and oral presentations to the AU Peace and Security Council. An open session on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts in Africa as well as an open session on the Protection of Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas were held.

Moreover, AACC presented a statement on xenophobic attacks in South Africa to the AU Peace and Security Department and the AUC Chairperson’s Office.

Key asks/recommendations from the AACC to Open Sessions of the AU Peace and Security Council have found their way to the final statements of the AUC in these sessions.

Engaging CSOs and FBO Constituency in Addis Ababa Especially Those CSOs Accredited to the AU Peace and Security Council; and the Faith-based Constituency in Addis

AACC chaired a successful maiden meeting with CSOs accredited to the AU Peace and Security Council. AACC’s coordination of CSOs accredited to the AU Peace and Security Council helped to share intelligence as well as orient others on how the AUC and the AU function, as well as strategizing on how best to influence these structures.

Moreover, AACC’s coordination of meetings of the faith-based constituency in Addis has helped to foster regular, more bilateral and constant communication and has aided greatly in clarifying questions as well as joint planning.
Other Advocacy Engagements with Faith Constituency in Africa

AACC presented the Faith Leaders’ Call to Action Letter on South Sudan to the Ethiopian Prime Minister’s Office in September 2019 towards the expiry of the deadline of the Revitalized Peace Agreement.

The Network of African Parliamentary Committee on Health (NEAPACOH), in collaboration with UNFPA, EU, PPD and IPPF, organized consultation focused on Building the Capacity of African Policy Makers for Enhanced Implementation of ICPD PoA and Improved Reproductive Health Outcomes: Challenges and Opportunities, held consultations in Uganda, two weeks prior to the commencement of ICPD+25. AACC, invited as a critical actor in Africa representing the religious constituency, took the opportunity to engage and lobby parliamentarians on representation and legislation for sustainable population and development in Africa.

Moreover, engagements with the Norwegian Church Aid and Oxfam International in the Pan African Conference on Extractive Industries and Fighting Inequality: Exploring the Linkages, Towards a More Equal Society, were held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

AACC also engaged with the African Union process for the Africa CSO consultation on The Common Africa Position on Population and Development, and had representation in the Namibia consultations.
INTRODUCTION

This department complements the office of the General Secretary to ensure that appropriate financial policy framework is in place, to guide decision making in terms of investment, strategic financial management and reporting, human resource matters, policy compliance as well as operations.

Below are highlights of the operations of the department for the period under review.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The AACC has three main sources of financing for its operations. These are:

1. Grants from partners
2. Internally generated funds from the Strategic Business Unit (SBU)
3. Membership fees and other income

FINANCIAL POSITION FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Actual in KES</th>
<th>Budget in KES</th>
<th>Absolute Variance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants from Partners</td>
<td>133,081,433</td>
<td>169,863,500</td>
<td>(36,782,067)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Business Unit (SBU)</td>
<td>227,559,562</td>
<td>231,796,200</td>
<td>(4,236,638)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Fees</td>
<td>1,872,120</td>
<td>4,400,000</td>
<td>(2,527,880)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>3,973,898</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,973,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total operating income</strong></td>
<td><strong>366,487,013</strong></td>
<td><strong>408,059,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>(41,572,687)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where the money came from

GRANTS FROM PARTNERS, KES
133,081,432, 36.3%

MEMBERSHIP FEES, KES
1,872,120, 0.5%

STRATEGIC BUSINESS UNIT, KES
227,559,562, 62.1%

OTHER INCOME, KES
3,973,898, 1.1%

Grants from Partners at a Glance

Germany, $771,043, 58%

Sweden, $107,763, 8%

Netherlands, $45,440, 3%

Norway, $77,089, 6%

Switzerland, $180,933, 14%

America, $71,538, 5%

Others, $77,008, 6%
How Missions and Programmes Money was Spent

Governance, Membership Devpt & Networking, KES 47,476,183, 20%
Effective Management & Sustainability, KES 24,464,727, 10%
Theology, Interfaith Relations & Ecclesial leadership devpt, KES 37,724,322, 16%
Advocacy at the African Union, KES 11,566,696, 5%
Peace, Diakonia & Development, KES 93,911,482, 39%
Gender, Women & Youth, KES 25,294,871, 10%

Contribution to the Kenyan economy

VAT (Kes. 23m)
PAYE (Kes. 16.2m)
EMPLOYEES
# Summary of staff position

**Programme staff**

Our current staff level stands at 22 as detailed below:

**Nairobi-Kenya: 16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Long-term</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Short term</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Addis Ababa-Ethiopia: 3**

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lomé-Togo Office: 3**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Long-term</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conference Center/Hotel**

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
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<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial sustainability efforts

Below are some of the measures, inter alia, taken by management to address the issue:

1. Growing the Internally Generated Funds. Efforts are in place to improving the performance of the Business Unit in order to increase income.

2. Encouraging members to make contributions to programme costs.

3. Prudent control of operational expenses without compromising delivery of services to member churches and other key constituencies.

4. Seeking new partnerships for the funding of programs. There are signs of fruition from the year 2020 from the fundraising, which is targeted at new initiatives/partners.

5. Compliance to standards by development partners. This will ensure regular flow of funds for the programmes that will guarantee sufficient funds to meet staff implementation costs.

6. Human resource capacity especially in programmes development and fundraising, and quality assurance and compliance.
ANNEX: STATEMENT

Statement of Commitments of Faith Actors Attending Nairobi Summit on ICPD25

Your Excellencies, delegates and participants,

We, the representatives of Hindu, Muslim and Christian faiths that attended the Religious Actors Pre-Summit on ICPD25 hereby state as follows:

We believe in the sacredness of life and affirm our responsibility to promote the wellbeing of humanity. We recognize that the dignity of every human being is fundamental in our respective religious beliefs and traditions. We, as religious leaders and faith actors, provide enormous opportunities for and contributions towards accelerating the quest for a better world.

However, we are concerned that perspectives and alternatives provided by faith actors, especially from the majority world, are minimally included in global processes such as ICPD25. We are concerned about the use of language and terminologies that are unclear and prone to multiple interpretations, such terms as ‘diversity,’ ‘inclusive’ and ‘comprehensive’. We are also alarmed at the intent to introduce underage girls and boys to contraception.

Nevertheless, we do recognize that ICPD25 has many items that are locally and contextually beneficial to our constituencies. We recognize that our society is heavily infested with sexual and gender-based violence. Our mothers are increasingly dying in the process of giving birth or soon after.

In line with our Godly calling, we commit as follows:

• To provide information and services on family planning/child spacing, to all persons, as is consistent with our faith values;
• To inform and educate our constituencies to eradicate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including child, early and forced marriage, as well as female genital mutilation;
• To inform and educate our constituencies to eradicate all forms of discrimination against any gender, especially women and girls;
• To hold our governments and political leaders accountable in allocation and utilization of resources for implementing relevant programmes on population and development;

• To participate in policymaking forums and contribute to policy development, including budget processes, at sub-national, national, regional and global levels;
• To provide data from health facilities owned, or operated by faith groups to national information systems in order to enhance planning for sustainable development;
• To harness the demographic dividend by complimenting and supplementing government and other actors' investments in the health, education and employment opportunities of young people;

• We stand against all forms of human trafficking and forceful human migration and its causes;

• We shall always pray and advocate for peace and justice in our countries and the globe at large.

Lastly, we urge our African governments:

• To guard against prohibitive costs of access to services, and to expand the cover of national health insurance schemes;

• Not to impose additional or over taxation of citizens in the name of domestic resource mobilization and to curb corruption by strengthening public policies at all levels.

• We therefore welcome our governments and the international community to partner with us toward the achievement of the ICPD Three Zeros by 2030 recognizing the protracted incidences of preventable maternal deaths, gender-based violence and inadequate quality reproductive healthcare services.

In conclusion, we reiterate that life is a gift from God, and therefore sacred; it ought not to be taken away through preventable causes. We therefore call upon everyone to uphold this sacred gift that you are. Thank you and may the God of life continue be our guide.

This statement was unanimously adopted on the 11th day of November 2019 during the religious actors Pre-Summit on ICPD25.
A CALL FOR PRAYER AND ACTIONS TO MARK 2019 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE ON 21st SEPTEMBER

International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21st September every year. In 2002, the UN General Assembly declared this date to echo and re-echo the ideals of peace in concrete ways within and among nations and peoples of the world.

The 2019 theme is “Climate Action for Peace”. The theme draws attention to the importance of combating climate change as a way to promote sustainable peace in our world. Undoubtedly, climate change threatens international peace and security. Natural disasters displace three times as many people as violent conflicts, forcing millions to leave their homes and seek safety elsewhere, taking on new social identities, “Refugees and IDPs”. The salinization of water and crops adversely affects in tremendous ways the achievement of food security, and negatively impacts on public health. The growing struggles and scrambles over resources and mass movements of people are affecting every country in all continents, especially Africa.

In the lead up to the 2019 International Day of Peace to be observed on Saturday 21st September, AACC calls on all churches and people of goodwill to intentionally take action in mitigating effects of climate change for our wellbeing and the environment as well. AACC encourages all member churches and councils to observe this day by praying and working for peace in Africa by organizing events on either Saturday 21st or Sunday 22nd, September 2019 as they are able. This may include biblical reflections on the theme, concrete and practical environmental protection actions as well as awareness-raising campaigns in communities and churches.

We have only mother earth! Let us care for it. Every human being is part of the solution.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”. (Matthew 5: 9)

Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki
General Secretary
Revive faith in the peace process: One year on from peace deal, African religious leaders urge East African leaders to take action for peace

NAIROBI, KENYA – SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 – Today marks one year since warring parties in South Sudan signed a momentous renewed agreement to work together towards lasting peace in South Sudan. On this day, we come together as the religious leaders of Africa to call for urgent action from the leaders of South Sudan’s neighboring governments to ensure there is significant progress in the implementation of the peace agreement ahead of the end of the pre-transition period on November 12.

We welcome the reduction in violence since the signing of the peace agreement. However, we are deeply concerned about the rising humanitarian crisis that has resulted in thousands of deaths, and that continues to leave millions of men, women and children in South Sudan desperate for food and shelter. We are further troubled by the increasing criminal acts, human rights violations and political intolerance in several locations in South Sudan. Incidents of violence against civilians, including abhorrent sexual violence, have continued to plague parts of the country even after the signing of the revitalized peace agreement last year. This must end.

As faith leaders, we cherish the sanctity of life and the protection of human dignity. We believe that the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan can only be resolved if South Sudanese leaders embrace true peace and love for their people and nation. South Sudanese leaders have a moral obligation to their citizens to end the violence and ensure continued progress towards peace, stability and justice.

The necessary step towards lasting peace and stability in South Sudan is the full and timely implementation of the 2018 peace agreement. As the 12 November deadline set by the signatories draws closer, we are concerned by the continued delays in implementation. The failure to implement the agreement risks the country collapsing back into war and destruction, and exacerbates the misery and hopelessness of the millions of South Sudanese forced to flee their homes because of war, including the almost 3 million refugees living in neighbouring countries.

The people of South Sudan want light out of this darkness; they want hope and a rebirth of their nation. To deliver this hope for their people, the leadership must rise above tribe and politics, above pride and prejudice, above the evil of alienation. Faith leaders from the African region are asking President Salva Kiir, Dr. Riek Machar and other South Sudanese leaders to deliver on their promises by November 12, to lead the people of South Sudan to re-discover the soul of the nation and breathe love and peace into it. They must embrace the virtue of sacrifice for the sake of the people and for the sake of posterity. This is the aspiration of millions of South Sudanese people whose voices are drowned in the din of war and guns.

We observe with deep appreciation the efforts by regional actors to resolve the conflict, and their generosity in welcoming refugees and bearing much of the humanitarian burden. We recognize the role of the African Union High-Level Ad-hoc Committee (C5), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Kenya in promoting dialogue among the parties to the agreement. Ahead of the November 12 deadline, we call upon our regional leaders to ensure implementation of the agreement.

Particularly, we ask President Museveni and President Kenyatta as South Sudan’s neighbors, President Ramaphosa as C5 chair, and PM Ahmed as IGAD chair, to urge President Kiir and
Dr. Machar to proactively implement the peace agreement in good faith, and to urge President Kiir to urgently release the USD 100 million pledged in May this year towards the implementation of the agreement, as a demonstration of commitment to the peace process.

The regional leaders, as South Sudan’s good neighbours, must now speak the truth to the leaders of South Sudan, on behalf of the millions of voiceless South Sudanese men, women and children who bear the brunt of the conflict. It is our conviction that these regional leaders have the power to influence lasting peace in South Sudan. It is imperative that faith is restored in the peace process and the South Sudanese people regain confidence in the future of their country.

We the religious leaders of Africa, by the grace of the Almighty God and driven by the teachings of love and peace, and the African principle of Ubuntu which calls on every person to be one another’s keeper, stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters, the people of South Sudan on this historic day - as we prayerfully look forward to a peaceful, united and just South Sudan that is founded on the values of peace and love for one another.

We once again call upon the leader of every country in the region to come together, in line with the spirit of Pan-Africanism and in accordance with the African Union’s principle on promoting greater unity and solidarity between African countries and the peoples of Africa, to honestly and zealously support efforts that will help build a peaceful South Sudan.

Almighty God Bless South Sudan

Signed

Cardinal John Onaiyekan
Co-Chair, ACRL—R/P

Sheikh Shaban Ramadhan Mubaje
ACRL-R/P

Canon Grace Kaiso
Co-Chair of Gen.
Secretary-CAPA

Dr. Francis Kuria
Secretary General of ACRL-R/P

Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki
Gen. Secretary - AACC

AACC Annual Report 2019
Solidarity Letter to the South African Council of Churches and its member churches, on the prevailing situation in South Africa regarding Xenophobic attacks.

Fraternal greetings to you.

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) presents its compliments and appreciation to the South African Council of Churches (SACC), and its member churches for the work it is doing to alleviate the plight of those affected and to bring healing to the prevailing situation and to those facing attacks.

It is through this letter that I convey my message of solidarity, strength and encouragement as you work tirelessly to meet protection needs of those affected, pastoral care, through prayer vigils and your engagements with the government of South Africa and local municipalities, including with the FOCCISA constituency.

The AACC is deeply saddened, and deeply concerned by these developments and will do all we can to accompany the SACC and the peoples of South Africa, and of the region in proffering lasting solutions.

To this date, my office has received the FOCCISA statement signed by its chairperson Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata. The AACC has also produced its own statement, enclosed herein with this message. Through the AACC Liaison Office both these statements have been shared with the offices of the African Union Commission Chairperson, and the office of the Executive Secretary of the SADC.

We will continue to journey with the SACC, the FOCCISA region and Africa as a whole until lasting

REV. DR. FIDON MWOMBEKI

GENERAL SECRETARY
AACC 1st Theological Symposium - Statement of Affirmation

STATEMENT FROM THE SYMPOSIUM

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

(Matthew 28: 19 –20)

Preamble

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) “The Spiritual Pulse of the African Continent” was founded in 1963 as a continental ecumenical body for different Christian confessions. It is a fellowship of 193 Church Denominations and Christian Councils in 42 African countries with headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

We, theologians from the five sub regions of Africa, namely Southern, Eastern, Western, Northern and Central Africa, with some from diaspora and ecumenical partners arising from the maiden All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) 1st Theological Symposium that focused on Misleading Theologies (MT) and held in Nairobi Kenya from 23rd to 27th October 2019;

Expressed appreciation and support for the initiative of the AACC in promoting relevant contextual theological engagements and discourses with theologians within and outside member churches and institutions towards promoting theologies that promote life with dignity;

Noted with concern the emergence and surge in theologies that could be classified as misleading on the continent of Africa. Such misleading theologies undermine the sovereignty of Christ, fundamental biblical doctrines and sound theological ethos, but evidently exploit and violate the God-given dignity of vulnerable Christians;

Observed with profound indignation the countless people adversely affected by these harmful beliefs and practices induced and sustained by misleading theologies;

Recognized the gaps in our churches on wealth and poverty, health and healing, leadership styles, power and authority, gender justice and different government regulations that created spaces and opportunities for the emergence, perpetuation and consumption of misleading theologies, teachings and practices in Africa. We took into cognizance the pivotal role that religion plays in the continent, knowing its susceptibility to elusiveness and fluidity, thereby misused to oppress and inflict pains on unsuspecting adherents;

Proclaimed with strong affirmation that Christ through the Holy Spirit gives and sustains life without demands for payment on the part of the human recipient, but a humble response with gratitude that inspires humanity to deal with kindness and respect with each other and continue to stimulate theological and ecumenical dialogue on issues that militate against fullness of life in Africa.

We, therefore,

Call on all those who create, import and export all forms of misleading theologies, teachings and
practices to humbly denounce, renounce and repent of such acts;

Call on all adherents of Christian faith to be wary of such perverted and misguided teachings and practices perpetrated and perpetuated by religious merchants in the guise of bearers of gospel message;

Call on all ecumenical fellowships at different levels of our society to put in place helping mechanisms that will safeguard innocent believers from falling prey to these religious misleaders that target the vulnerable population in the name of God;

Call on governments at all levels in the continent to promote and safeguard religious freedom and rights of religious minorities as well as to safeguard lives of people put at stake by misleading theologies and practices;

We, therefore,

Having been further equipped with knowledge on misleading theologies as teachings, doctrines and practices that challenge and misrepresent the sovereignty of Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and apparently violate the inherent human dignity, putting life of people in danger;

Commit to promote and popularize true teachings of the word of God, renew and reclaim the prophetic voice of the Church in addressing emerging societal issues that offer prospects for misleading theologies, teachings and practices to thrive in the continent;

Commit to sound biblical teaching on health and healing that addresses misleading theologies at local congregations through sensitization and enhancing theologies that empower local congregations in their learning and understanding of theological interpretations on health and healing. Constantly highlighting violations of human dignity resulting from misleading theologies and promote holistic healing practices based on Biblical teachings. Further reiterating the role of holistic pastoral care in accompanying the vulnerable and advocating for justice;

Commit to practice and advocate for biblical principles of power and authority that recognize that God is the ultimate giver of power and that religious leaders hold delegated powers. As such, there is need for humility, stewardship and servant leadership in leading the church. This is in order to curb outward shows of personalized power and authority, which manipulates and exploits the vulnerable. To further deconstruct misleading theologies relating to women and leadership, people with disabilities and pledge commitment to end discrimination of women and people with disabilities at all levels of church leadership and progressively work to enhance the space for articulation of the effects of MT on women in the church. That power and authority should not be used as tools of oppression and subjugation but rather for the glory of God and selfless service to humanity;

Commit to continually teach on wealth and poverty that inspire development of relevant contextual and life enhancing theologies of holistic prosperity, which are sustainable, empowering, participatory and inclusive. These theologies emphasize positive work ethic, critical thinking, spiritual discernment and stewardship. To also rethink and address in succinct ways the normalization and glorification of poverty as well as the exaltation of materialism as indicators of God’s favor upon humankind;

Commit to theological training, pastoral and spiritual formation to meet the needs of the people. Reforms in theological teaching to address issues of misleading theologies, promote ecumenical hermeneutics; develop clear theological roadmaps on the thematic issues of power and authority, health and healing, wealth and poverty, regulation of ministry practices, teachings of stewardship and servant leadership. Developing pastoral care models which cater to the holistic human needs;
Commit to promote collaboration and consensus on ecumenical issues. We further call for the respect for and adherence to national laws in the pursuit of religious freedoms. We also recall and emphasize the role of the umbrella bodies to self-regulate the practice of theology by setting minimum standards on pastoral care.

Commit to use every opportunity to address manifestations of misleading theologies in ways that glorify God and restore victims and perpetrators to wholeness.

Therefore, in order to achieve our commitments we ask AACC:

To initiate and lead a study process to develop a publication that articulates a positive theology of wealth, prosperity and sustainable development;

To organize a similar symposium as an annual theological event that addresses agreed thematic issues informed by prevailing circumstances based on the existential realities of the people of Africa;

Ephesians 4:15 “... speak the truth in love...”

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