



ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (AACC)

FIVE YEARS REPORT TO THE 12TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY



FROM KIGALI, RWANDA TO ABUJA, NIGERIA

JULY 2018 – NOVEMBER 2023

From “Respecting the Dignity and God’s Image in every Human Being” to “The Love of Christ Compels us”

Abuja, Nigeria 18th – 23rd November 2023



Table of Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms	4
i. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
1. INTRODUCTION	12
1.1. AACC Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023	12
1.2. Overview of the AACC’s operating context	13
2. Performance and progress in the implementation of the strategy	14
2.1. Theology, Interfaith Relations and Ecclesial Leadership Development.....	14
2.2. Gender, Women and Youth Department.....	19
2.2.1. Gender and Women.....	19
2.2.2. Youth	30
2.3. Peace, Diakonia and Development	41
2.3.1. Peace	41
2.3.2. Migration and human Trafficking.....	51
2.3.3. Climate Change	52
2.3.4. Advocacy for Economic Justice and a new Debt Crisis	55
2.3.5. Sustainable Population growth.....	59
2.3.6. Diakonia.....	65
2.4. Advocacy at the African Union.....	68
2.4.1. Agenda 2063	68
2.4.2. Advocacy Trainings	70
2.4.3. AACC relationship with the African Union Commission (AUC), Advocacy Towards the AUC Leadership and its related organs	74
2.4.4. CSOs & FBOs Coordination Meetings & Engagements in Addis Ababa	90
2.5. Activities implemented by the AACC Regional Office in Lome, Togo.....	92
2.5.1. Migration and Trafficking in Persons	92
2.5.2. Engaging religious leaders to advocate for ending and preventing violence against women.....	97
3. Organizational Pillars	98
3.1. Governance, Membership Development and Networking.....	98
3.1.1. Governance Meetings:.....	98
3.1.2. Membership Development and Partnerships	102
3.1.3. Communication and Networking.....	112
3.1.4. Africans in the Diaspora and People of African Descent	112
3.2. Effective Management and Sustainability	112
4. CONCLUSION	123



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AACC	All Africa Conference of Churches
AAYC	All Africa Youth Congress
AAYN	All Africa Youth Network
ACCORD	African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
ACHAP	Africa Christian Health Association Platform
ACRL –RfP	Africa Council of Religious Leaders– Religions for Peace
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFAN-CJ	Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice
AFSC	American Friends Service Committee
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
ACS	Africa Climate Summit
ACW	Africa Climate Week
AGA	African Governance Architecture
APSA	Africa Peace and Security Architecture
BfdW	Bread for the World
CAHOSCC	Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change
CBDR-RC	Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities
CIDO	Citizens and Diaspora Directorate
CITG	Compassion International Togo
CCAP	Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Blantyre
CCME	Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe
CCT	Church and Community Transformation
COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
COP27	27 th Climate Change Conference of Parties
CPD	Commission on Population and Development
CRC	Constitutional Review Committee
CSRRG	Civil Society Regional Reference Group



CWM	Council for World Mission
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DHS	Demographic Health survey
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DTCC	Desmond Tutu Conference Centre
EAC	East African Community
EAM	Evangelical Association of Malawi
ECM	Episcopal Conference of Malawi
ECOSOCC	Economic Social and Cultural Council of AU
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEPA	Europe External Partner for Europe
ELCA	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELOG	Elections Observation Group
ENSS	Ecumenical Network for South Sudan
EPEPPA	Eminent Persons Ecumenical Program for Peace in Africa
EPN	Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network
ESARO	East and Southern Africa Regional Office
FBOs	Faith Based Organizations
FECCLAHA	Fellowship of Churches and Councils in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa
FECCIWA	Fellowship of Churches and Councils in West Africa
FLC	Fellowship of the Least Coin
FoC	Framework of Cooperation
FEMWISE	Network of African Women in Conflict Mediation and Prevention
FOCCISA	Fellowship of Churches and Councils in Southern Africa
GA	General Assembly
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
ICFLC	International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IFDF	Interfaith Dialogue Forum
IYD	International Youth Day
IWD	International Women's Day



JCWM	Just Community of Women and Men
KAICIID	King Abdullah International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue
KIEMS	Kenya Integrated Election Management System
LOC	Local Organizing Committee
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MCC	Malawi Council of Churches
NCCK	National Council of Churches
OAU	Organization of African Unity
PACJA	Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
PoA	Programme of Action
PVT	Parallel Voting Tabulation
PWDs	People with Disabilities
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RJMEC	Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission
REET	Ecumenical Network of Theological Education
RPP	Regional Peace Program
SBU	Strategic Business Unit
SIARP	Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Program
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SSCC	South Sudan Council of Churches
UEM	United Evangelical Mission
UN	United Nations
UNEA	United Nations Environmental Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCC	World Council of Churches
YES	Youth Ecumenical Summit
ZacTax	Zacchaeus Tax



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (AACC)

11th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

July, 2018 Kigali - Rwanda **Respecting The Dignity and God's Image in Every Human Being**

The AACC held its 11th General Assembly (GA) in Kigali, Rwanda, from 2nd – 7th July 2018 under the theme **“Respecting the Dignity and God’s Image in every Human Being.”** This happened at a time when the African continent was facing a myriad of challenges and churches were grappling with how to deal with these challenges. Being the highest decision-making body of the AACC, the GA while discerning the theme also took time to propose strategic direction that would shape the prophetic engagement of the AACC in the coming five years. These proposals were formulated into the **AACC’s 2019-2023 Strategy** which sought to make practical the resolutions of the Eleventh General Assembly. The strategy identified numerous concerns and challenges that faced AACC member churches in the African continent, which were put together into four (4) programmatic pillars and two (2) organizational pillars that AACC would focus on in the next five years. These are:

- a) *Theology, Interfaith Relations and Ecclesial Leadership Development*
- b) *Gender, Women and Youth*
- c) *Peace, Diakonia and Development*
- d) *Advocacy at the African Union*
- e) *Governance, Membership Development and Networking*
- f) *Effective Management and Sustainability.*



From 2019 – 2023 activities were implemented under the above pillars through the leadership of the AACC’s General Secretary, Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki, who took office in January 2019 and spearheaded the implementation of the AACC’s 2019-2023 strategy. Therefore, this report provides highlights of the AACC’s activities and performance during the period running from January 2019 to September 2023. During this period, the AACC has successfully implemented a wide range of activities in its fulfillment of its vision and mission in line with the above strategy despite the complex operating context. These have been carried out as follows:

- a) **Theology, Interfaith Relations and Ecclesial Leadership Development:** This pillar had four thematic areas that focused on ecumenical formation to nurture young theologians and pastors as well as rekindle the spirit of ecumenism. The department sought to tackle the challenges facing African Christianity by addressing misleading theologies that were on the increase, putting peoples’ lives in danger and even death. Four symposiums on misleading theologies were held and their proceedings published into 4 volumes. Additionally, the International Handbook on Creation Care and Eco-Diakonia was published, which was a joint initiative of AACC, CCA, UEM, REET and BfdW. The AACC provided guidance and accompaniment for sustainable leadership in churches and seven capacity building workshops for leadership and self-suitability were carried out. The workshops provided opportunities for female and male church leaders and youth representatives to sharpen their skills in ethical leadership.
- b) **Gender, Women and Youth:** Grounded in the Biblical principle that women and men are made in the image of God (Gen 1:27), the AACC, through this pillar engaged churches, women, men, youth and other stakeholders to affirm the human dignity and wholeness of women and men, as evidenced in the numerous activities that were carried out as indicated in this report. Interventions carried out during the period under review focused on ending sexual and gender based violence, highlighting the plight of widows, advocating for women’s rights and gender equality, enhancing women’s participation in church leadership as well as promoting women entrepreneurial skills. The AACC campaign on Justice for Widows was launched as well as the AACC’s Male Platforms for gender justice that increased men’s involvement for gender justice. The youth in the continent were engaged in activities that sought to create opportunities for them, showcasing success stories that fostered creativity, innovation and job creation as well as their interactions with youth from other faiths. The AACC youth Campaign on African Patriotism under the theme “**Africa: My Home, My Future**” was successfully launched, and the first All Africa Youth Congress was held. The campaign has continued to inspire youth to love their countries.



- c) **Peace, Diakonia and Development:** In its drive for peace and sustainable development in Africa, AACC maintained an ecumenical pastoral presence for reconciliation and peace in difficult situations/environments, championing peacebuilding and mediation initiatives in countries such as Burundi, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Zimbabwe etc. In our commitment to the ministry of presence, we revamped the “Eminent Persons Ecumenical Programme for Peace in Africa (EPEPPA)”. The AACC continued to engage in deepening the Culture of Democracy through Election Monitoring, Observation and Accountability. AACC organized capacity strengthening sessions on civic responsibilities of citizens, democratic governance and also accompanied countries that were up for elections such as Benin, Cote D’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Togo and Zambia. Address on the impact of climate change and promotion of eco-theology was amplified by the formation of AACC’s Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ) which supported the climate justice work of the AACC. The AFAN-CJ became the AACC’s engagement tool in the respective countries on climate justice matters. It facilitated the engagement of key stakeholders (including government officials, the Africa Group of Negotiators and civil society) at the national level climate change issues. AACC continued to raise awareness on Public Accountability and New Debts Crises in Africa and strengthened the capacity of selected representatives of member churches of AACC to effectively engage key stakeholders including governments on public debts and corruption in the continent and beyond. The issue of sustainable population growth was highlighted and its impact on development. Activities included dissemination of the AACC Discussion Paper on Sustainable Population for Sustainable Development, capacity strengthening session on sustainable population growth in Africa for church leaders and theological reflection/round table meetings on population and demographic dividends in Kampala Uganda.
- d) **Advocacy at the African Union:** AACC’s advocacy work at the African Union and at the global level grew steadily with the reconfiguration and restructuring of the AACC Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As a result, AACC’s visibility, engagement and joint activities with the African Union (AU) increased substantially. This pillar focused on five thematic areas that included agenda 2063, migration and trafficking, population and development, representation of faith-based organization’s voices and the new African debt crisis. The Liaison office in Addis Ababa amplified its advocacy work on interventions on these thematic areas through high level advocacy engagements with AU and its related organs, multi-stakeholder dialogues, consultative meetings, high level policy dialogues and engagements, presentation of oral and written submissions as well as advocacy engagements with regional bodies as well as



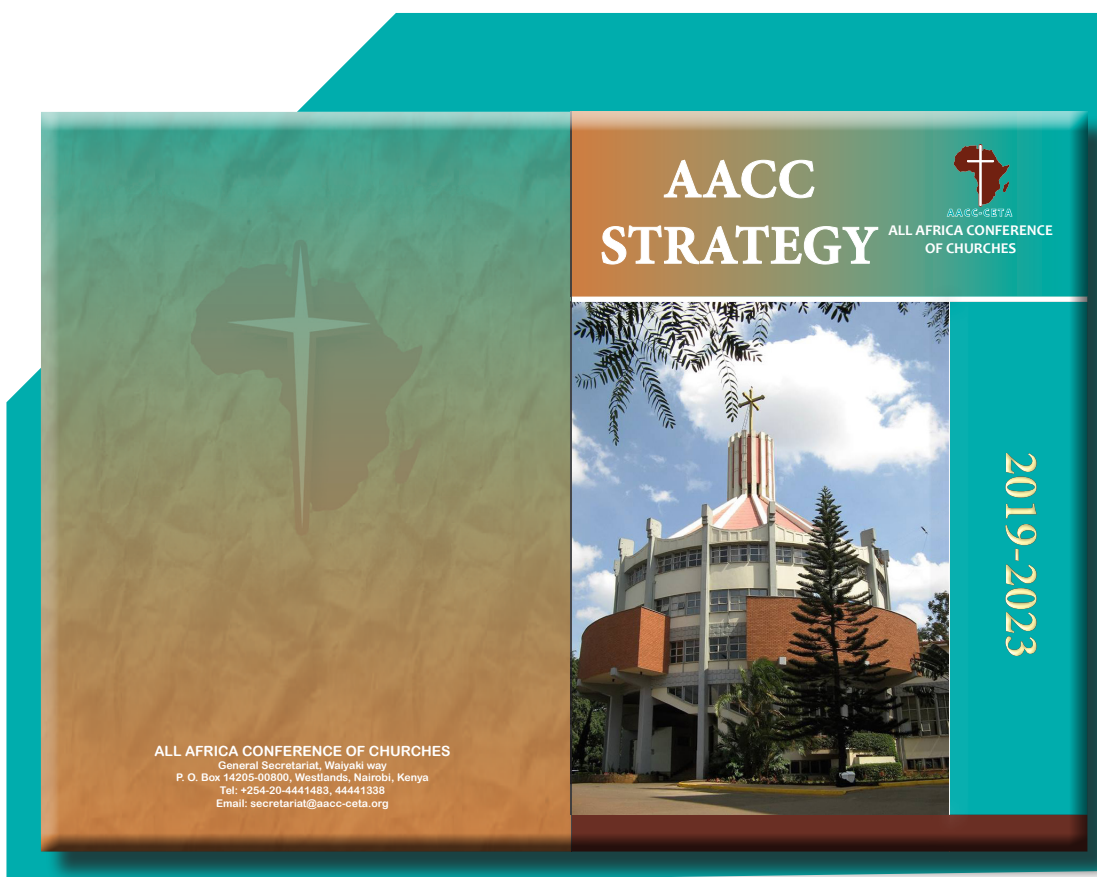


multilateral bodies such as the United Nations and its related organs, and the European Union. Further, the office continued to work in partnership with other stakeholders and organizations that it has MOUs with and continued to enjoy good support and a good working relationship with Faith Based Organizations based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As we amplified our advocacy work at the African Union, engaging with the different stakeholders on Agenda 2063 aspirations, we were concerned by the continuous failure to meet Agenda 2063 targets. Africa missed its target of Silencing the Guns by 2020 and instead, regrettably, new conflicts arose and have continued in the Sahel region including Ethiopia, the African Union Commission's host country. Despite this setback, the work at the AACC Liaison Office at the African Union increased significantly, increasing the positive image of the AACC with both its constituency and with the external stakeholders. More importantly, the influencing work towards the African Union & the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa has continued to solidify.

- e) **Governance, Membership Development and Networking:** The Office of the General Secretary provided leadership to the AACC and was instrumental in ensuring the organization's vision and mission were delivered satisfactorily. During the period under review, the office of the General Secretary ensured that governance bodies performed their functions effectively and met as stipulated in the AACC constitution. AACC members increased from **193** in **2018** to **210** in **2023**. The General Secretary increased AACC's presence and relevance among the members of AACC and visited many members during the period. Additionally, the General Secretary strengthened existing partnerships with AACC ecumenical partners and established new networks, contacts and funding opportunities that continued to spur growth of the AACC programmatic work. The General Secretary continued to engage with members of AACC in different ways and the secretariat sent several prayer alerts as situations evolved in the continent. The General Secretary represented the AACC adequately both in the continent and globally and ensured effective and sustained communication with all stakeholders. All these engagements resulted in the increased visibility of the AACC continentally and globally. It led to more members joining the AACC as well as new partnerships for the AACC programmatic work such as the new Climate Yes Campaign that focuses on youth engagement on climate change.
- f) **Effective Management and Sustainability:** Effective management and sustainability during the period under review involved prudent management of the organization's resources namely, human resources, financial and compliance management, and management of the organization's material resources and sustainability of the organization. Organizational policies and



procedures guided the management of these resources as strict adherence to the operating policies and guidelines were enforced. New staff joined the organization whereas others finished their contracts or retired. Staff motivation remained high that enabled the organisation to record the steering performance as indicated in this report.





1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. AACC Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023

The AACC 5-year strategy has been the guiding road map through which the AACC's work over the last five years has been implemented. It was developed as an outcome of deliberations of the 11th General Assembly held in Kigali, Rwanda, under the theme "**Respecting the Dignity and God's Image in every Human Being.**" To achieve its mission, the AACC developed the 5 years strategy from 2019 –2023 to make practical the resolutions of its 11th Assembly within six programmatic and organizational pillars of its secretariat. This strategy was adopted by the AACC General Committee at its meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya on 24th October 2018. Through this strategy, the AACC sought to engage churches in the search for theological positioning through the symposiums on misleading theologies, accompanied its members in their prophetic engagement in their contexts, conducted workshops which focused on Capacity Building for Sustainable Development and Diakonia for selected church leaders, women leaders and youth representatives drawn from member churches, intensified its ecumenical pastoral presence in difficult environments; championed peace building and mediation initiatives in countries facing crisis, engaged women and youth and amplified her advocacy work at the African Union and at the global level. These were achieved

through four programmatic pillars namely:

- a) Theology, Interfaith Relations and Ecclesial Leadership development
- b) Gender, Women and Youth
- c) Peace, Justice and Development, and
- d) Advocacy at the African Union.

The AACC further identified two organizational pillars that strengthened governance, membership development and networking as well as ensured there was effective management and that the organization would remain sustainable. These were:

- a) Governance, Membership Development and Networking
- b) Effective Management and Sustainability

After two years of implementation, the General Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki realized that even though all AACC documents, communications and information from the Secretariat to the constituencies were printed and sent in both English and French languages (so as to ensure an equitable sharing of information among the members despite the language barrier), members from the French speaking countries were lagging behind. It was then decided to change the organizational





and operational structure of the AACC's Lomé Regional Office. Thus, the Lomé Regional Office which had been only representational became both representational and programmatic starting January 2021. Consequently, the

office now designs activities according to the needs of the two regions (West and Central Africa mainly Francophone) and fund raises to implement these activities.

1.2. Overview of the AACC's operating context

The AACC implemented the 2019-2023 strategy in a complex environment that was affected by both external and internal factors (positive and negative) which were not envisaged at the time of developing the strategy. Despite the complex operating environment during the period under review, the AACC recorded tremendous progress in program management and implementation, intensified collaboration with other ecumenical organizations and like-minded civil society organizations that enabled the AACC mobilize additional funding, new projects came up and number of partners increased during the period under review. New projects were launched and implemented successfully.

Africa's political, economic, social and ecological landscape remained alarming and unpredictable and was compounded by the emergence of COVID-19 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine which initiated an increase in food and energy costs that challenged people and economies, many which are still reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Climate change remained

a major threat to humanity across the continent. There was serious destruction and loss of life in many countries due to cyclones, severe flooding, and droughts. Communities in the Sahel continued to toil between the violence caused by non-State armed groups and climate-related threats to livelihoods, and several countries experienced flooding that killed hundreds of people and displaced millions across the continent. Thus, the effects of climate crisis and extreme weather events continued to play an increasingly prominent role throughout the period. Apart from the negative effects of the pandemic, the COVID-19 crisis provided opportunity for institutional strengthening, digitization of AACC's systems and processes, and provided the AACC with new opportunities for programming and project implementation. This has ensured efficiency and effectiveness of AACC's work across the African continent. Further, use of hybrid approaches in project implementation has also enabled the AACC reach out to large numbers of her constituency.



2. PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

2.1. Theology, Interfaith Relations and Ecclesial Leadership Development

This pillar had four programmatic goals that focused on nurturing young theologians and pastors for ecumenical formation, addressing misleading theologies, interfaith Interventions and ecclesial leadership development for self-sustainability. Through this pillar, the organization increased its level of activity and focus to enhance ecumenical formation and tackled misleading theologies in an effort to put the African theological discourse on track. Further the organization conducted workshops which focused on capacity building for sustainable development and diakonia for selected church leaders, women leaders and youth representatives drawn from member churches. These were carried out as follows:

2.1.1 *Nurture young theologians and pastors for ecumenical formation:*

A tracer study of graduates of the Theological Institute was conducted. This study revealed an overwhelming endorsement with participants requesting AACC to continue training young theologians through the Theological Institute. Further the AACC organized an Ecclesial Engagement in Public Theology. Some young theologians were also active throughout the period and participated in the symposiums on misleading theologies, either as active participants and some as presenters/ speakers. The AACC Theological Institute is a training program for young theologians with aspirations to take up leadership positions in the church / ministry life of the church that nurtures young people as future generations leaders of the Church.



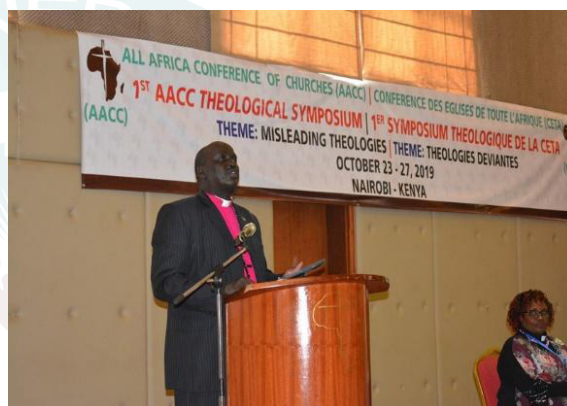
8th Theological Institute
Graduation - Group
Photo

It focuses on the ecumenical formation of young generations of theologians towards leadership and responsibility in the Church and the ecumenical movement. Theological Institutes are planned around specific themes and they have proved a useful tool in the development of leaders for the growing churches in Africa. At the 11th General Assembly in Kigali, the 8th theological institute was held.

2.1.2 Addressing Misleading Theologies: The AACC engaged churches in identifying, analyzing and deconstructing misleading theologies on the continent. Four symposiums on the subject matter were held as follows:

a) First Symposium on Misleading Theologies :

AACC held its first theological symposium on the theme “Misleading Theologies” in Nairobi, Kenya, from 23rd -27th October 2019. The AACC, through this inaugural symposium intended to continue accompanying churches in Africa in the area of promoting relevant contextual theology as the continent encounters proliferation of different theologies and misinterpretation of the scriptures leading to false doctrinal teachings and practices. The symposium created a platform for church leaders as well as lay and ordained theologians to engage in identifying, analyzing and deconstructing misleading theologies on the continent.

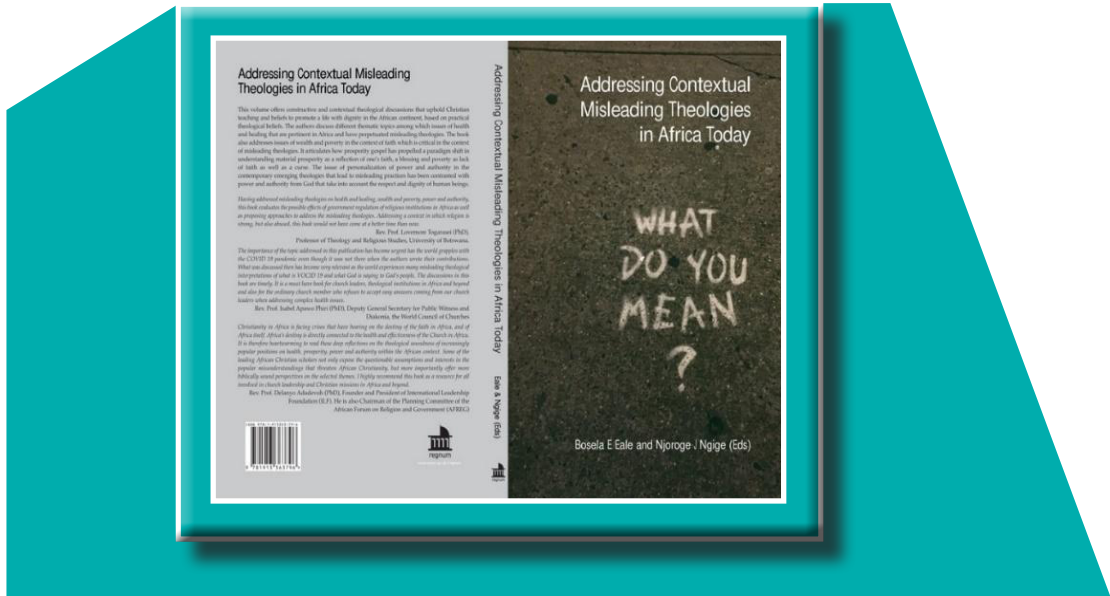


Bp. Dr. Isaiah Majok Dau leading devotion on day 1

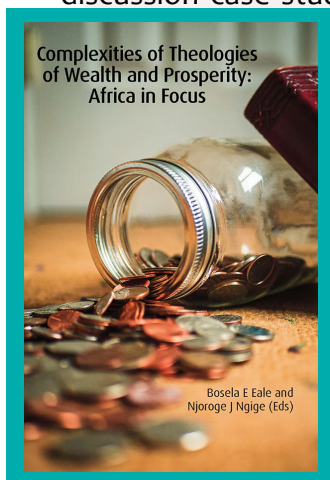


Participants to the first symposium

Papers presented during this symposium were published into a book entitled “**Addressing contextual misleading theologies in Africa today.**” The book has been published by Regnum at Oxford Centre for Mission Studies in United Kingdom (UK). It was released in November 2020 and is now available for sale.



b) Second Symposium on Misleading Theologies: This was held under the theme **“Complexities of Theologies of Wealth and Prosperity,”** and was held from 23rd -27th November, 2020 at the Desmond Tutu Conference Center in Nairobi Kenya. The objectives of the symposium were to look into ways on how to address positively the complexities of theologies of wealth and prosperity in continental Africa, analyze the theology of natural abundance, contextual theologies of wealth and prosperity and discuss the importance of promoting contextual and public theologies in continental Africa through thematic topics in the program. The objectives were achieved through thematic topics, expounded through the keynote address, paper presentations, panel discussion case studies and group discussion. The outcome of this was the publication of the book titled below:-

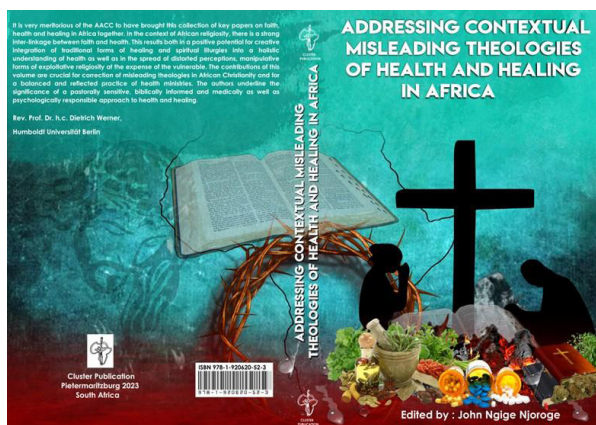


c) Third Symposium on Misleading Theologies: This was held from 22 – 24 November 2021 at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre in Nairobi, Kenya a under the theme: **“Controversies About Theologies of Health and Healing.”** The objective of this symposium was to deepen the understanding of the theologies of Health and healing in the African church and deconstruct the oppressive approaches to the notions and practices of healing and human wellness with a special focus on the Covid-19 pandemic. The Symposium engaged theologians, pastors, members of theological



associations and church leaders to establish ways to address theologies of health and healing. The participants discussed ways to theologize the use of healing practices in the African church. Additionally, the need for promoting contextual theologies of health and healing put the discussion in proper focus. The symposium covered relevant and contemporary theological issues on health and healing as an existential concern within the churches in continental Africa by expounding thematic topics in the program. These objectives were achieved through thematic topics, expounded by the keynote address, paper presentations, panel discussions, case studies, and group discussions. The

outcome was the publication of the book title below:



d) Fourth Symposium on Misleading Theologies: This was held in Nairobi, Kenya held from 19th to 23rd September 2022 under the theme, **“Addressing contextual theologies of power and authority in African churches”**. It explored ways of addressing misleading theologies on power and authority manifesting in African churches

today, looking at personalization of divine power and authority by religious leaders and self-proclaimed prophets and preachers, the theology of power and authority and its cosmological understanding in Africa’s religious thought, the impact of the self-proclaimed prophets/

preachers on the manipulation of vulnerable Christians, the adoption of the CEO model of church leadership in the contemporary churches in Africa and the application of divine power and authority in responding to misleading theologies where self-proclaimed prophets and preachers are challenging the sovereignty of God, demanding respect, instilling fear and forming personality cults. It brought together 62 participants from across the African continent for the symposium. Speakers presented papers on misleading theologies, followed by plenary discussions. Papers presented are being revised for publication.



A cross-section of participants following the proceedings of the 4th Symposium – Photo by AACC



2.1.3. Ecclesial Leadership Development:

The goal of this thematic area was to provide guidance and accompaniment for ethical leadership in the churches. It aimed at promoting good governance and democratic transition in the churches, facilitating conflict resolution within churches as requested, creating an AACC pool of mediators who are non-partisan and providing capacity building on leadership at different levels. There were series of capacity strengthening workshops that were carried out for church leaders, women leaders, youth representatives and people with disability. The over 100 participants that participated in the workshops were taken through sessions that focused on transformational leadership, human resource management, ethical investment, diakonia as mission of the church and strategic planning.

Most of the beneficiaries of the series of workshops have written to express appreciation for the content and quality of the delivery by the resource persons. One of the church leaders said, “I would have missed a great deal if I didn’t come for this workshop because what I have learnt can’t be acquired anywhere.” Some the church leaders have already initiated similar activities as stepdown actions from the workshop. The AACC team has been contacted to facilitate sessions and, in some cases, deliver keynote address on ethical leadership.



Participants to the church leaders’ training in diakonia, leadership and development, Nairobi, November 9, 2021



2.2. Gender, Women and Youth Department

As outlined in the AACC 2019 – 2023 strategy, this pillar focused on eight thematic pillars that aimed to advance the AACC’s agenda for gender equality, women and youth empowerment in the continent. Through this pillar, the AACC focus was on activities that ensured that women, men and youth experience justice, equality and inclusion for full and fulfilled lives which were carried out as follows:

2.2.1. Gender and Women

Under this thematic area, the AACC advanced gender equality and women’s empowerment through the following thematic areas:

a) Ending Sexual and Gender Based Violence: The AACC pursued the fight against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) where several meetings, both physical and virtual were held during the period under review to address the issue. Further, each year the AACC has commemorated the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. AACC has taken lead, and in collaboration with other FBOs and CSOs, at the beginning of the 16 days hosted the launch through physical/hybrid consultations. Some of the collaborating organizations included World Vision, Faith to Action Network, WCC EDAN, WCC EHAIA, Act Alliance and FECCLAHA, among

others. The launch kick started the commemoration and served to create awareness about the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, as well as to kickstarting related activities by individuals and organizations within the 16 Days of Activism.



Group photo of participants at the launch of 16 Days of Activism in Nairobi on 25th November 2021

The AACC increased the participation of men in the fight against SGBV, which resulted in the establishment of six platforms of male champions for gender justice in pilot African countries namely, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, Malawi, Togo and Uganda. Using these platforms, the AACC continuously engaged men to promote gender justice and women empowerment with the objective of increasing men’s participation in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa.

AACC further organized capacity strengthening sessions for the male champions and continuously accompanied these Platforms by strengthening their capacities to advocate for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE).



The role of AACC is to accompany these platforms by strengthening their capacities to identify and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence in each of these countries, thus enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

These platforms have been very active and engaging through different

platforms and using different innovative approaches to promote gender justice e.g. songs in Malawi, radio and TV stations in Nigeria and Togo and social media posters (see samples below). One of the amazing outcomes is that more churches are requesting for establishment of platforms of Male Champions for Gender Justice in their countries.



Group photo of the Capacity Strengthening Workshop for representatives of male champions held in Nairobi from November 24th-26th 2021

Statements against acts of domestic violence and BV through Radio and TV Stations (Osinachi)



○ Nigeria Male Champions issued a strong Statement against the recent killing of a prominent singer-Osinachi in April 2022

○ <https://radiointerfaithradio.gov.ng/2022/04/21/can-raise-alarm-over-spate-of-gbvs/>

Advocating for Rights of Women and Girls through Music

Songs, dance and Posters - Pastor Kambalame Malawi

Link to the song

○ https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1322626593288007_161822313662891091800001_wwwfb_161822313662891091800001




Male Champions For Gender Justice



Our Male champions in Malawi have realized that they should not remain silent and do nothing when widows continue to be discriminated against and dehumanized. They are leading the campaign on trying on to all forms of gender-based violence, but also work the religious leaders and traditional leaders to advocate for GBWE and justice for widows.



Six (6) Radio programs were aired in **Togo** in 2022-2023 on Women's Rights and Complementarity in the couple. Physical dialogues on gender and generation were also carried out among Church leaders of different age groups



One of the radio shows in Togo

a) **Highlighting the Plight of Widows:**

AACC launched her Justice for Widows Campaign on International Widows' Day on 23rd June 2019, through which AACC continues to create awareness about the plight of widows in the continent in diverse ways. For example, AACC has developed an Advocacy Tool Kit for Justice for Widows, launched on International Women's Day, 8th March, 2022. Every year the AACC has provided small grants of \$2000 to churches to encourage and stimulate activities targeting widows to create innovative programmes for widows. Since 2019, AACC sets aside the International Widows' Day, June 23rd each year, to

commemorate the day and also invites her entire constituency to observe the day. On 23rd June 2019, AACC launched her *Justice for Widows Campaign* in Zambia, in collaboration with the Council of Churches in Zambia. The Campaign calls for urgent measures to respond to the plight of widows by Religious Leaders, Male Champions for gender justice, FBOs, CSOs, AU, UN Agencies, Governments, families and society. In 2022, AACC in Collaboration with Malawi Council of Churches (MCC) and AACC Platform of Male Champions for Gender Justice hosted the International Widows' Day in Crown hotel in Lilongwe,



Malawi, on 23rd June 2022. In 2023, the AACC hosted two separate meetings to commemorate the International Widows’ Day. One was an in-person meeting in Togo, and the other was a virtual meeting for the continent. Commemoration of International Widows’ Day has also been used as a capacity strengthening engagement on effective advocacy for the rights of widows, using the AACC Advocacy Tool Kit for Justice for Widows.

Four key outcomes of the AACC’s campaign for Justice for Widows’ have been:

i) Development of a Documentary:

A 20 minutes documentary was developed to create awareness of the plight of widows in Africa. It was then shortened to 7 minutes. Both versions are available in the links below and are being circulated through social media and AACC website:

Short-<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1pUkteYWXzdCtnTviA3yzUvSh9j5EDog>

Long-<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1evdnmoJ53vkqbW1z79vsvX-j-UPPX8Aw/view?usp=drivesdk>

A Documentary on Widows’ Experiences With COVID-19 Pandemic and AACC Incentive Grant-December, 2020 is provided in the links below:

1. Link to English Version

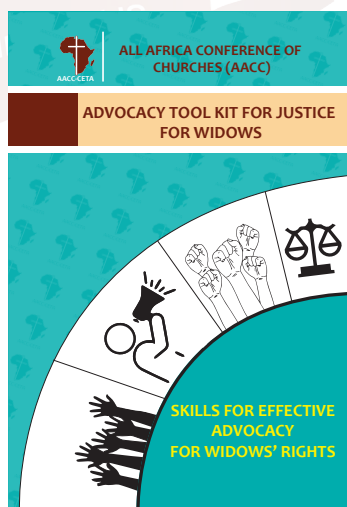
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-qY5FEmreUEchS2s-lKNmHE9-G_jr4Bk/view?usp=sharing

2. Link to the French Version

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y9bTugo_igNe02UbHQT-oPgAP_dIDCex7/view?usp=sharing

ii) Development of Advocacy Tool Kit on the Rights of Widows:

To amplify the work of the AACC on widows and celebrate 20 years of the Maputo Protocol whose Article 20 protects the rights of widows, AACC developed an advocacy tool kit for justice for widows, which was launched at the celebrations of IWD on 8th March, 2022. It provides religious guidance on the role of the church to advocate and use its public space to raise the voice of the silenced voices, as well as technical information on advocating for widows and widows’ issues in Africa. The toolkit was made available through a link shared through social media platforms as well as through hard copies shared with Church and other religious leaders.





iii) Provision of small grants to churches to encourage and stimulate activities targeting widows to create innovative programmes for widows:

This activity involved provision of small grants to churches with widows' projects. A call to apply was sent out in the first quarter of each project year to all the churches in the AACC constituency. Once the applications were received, a small selection committee would review and select 5 churches which qualified each year. Regional balance was put into consideration in the selection criteria. Nineteen Churches from thirteen (13) African countries benefited from the grants of \$10,000 with support from Church of Sweden whereby each Church received \$2000. These were Ethiopia, Burundi, Ghana, DRC, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi, Lesotho, Uganda, Central Republic

and Rwanda. Unfortunately, due to lock-downs brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic and other natural calamities like floods, some churches requested for support for a second time in order to complete their planned activities. Through our announcement to churches for application of the grant and also through the widows' projects, more awareness was raised about the plight of widows. Some churches that did not qualify because they did not have a widows' project in place have taken the challenge and are committed to prioritize widows in their planning. Though the grant is small, churches have been creative enough in spending for maximum results, especially through training widows to run income generating projects such as pastries, soap making, pottery, pig and goat rearing projects, and starting small businesses among others.



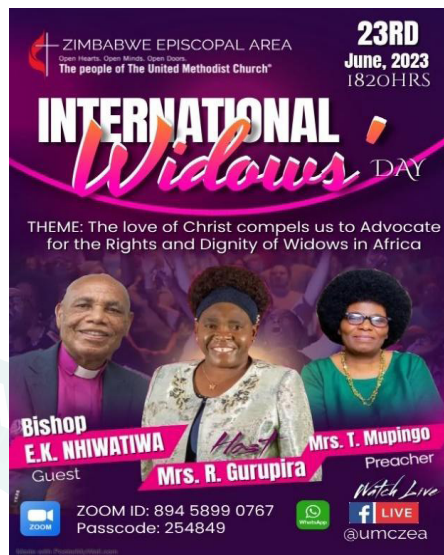
Twenty widows receive two goats each in Gatumba Anglican parish in rural Bujumbura, Burundi. Some women sent their children to receive the goats on their behalf.





iv) Churches' Adherence to AACC's Call to Commemorate International Widows Day:

Several churches have adhered to AACC's call to churches to find creative ways of commemorating International Widows' Day every 23rd June besides joining the AACC's virtual event. The flier below, is an example from the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe that adopted AACC's theme for International Widows' Day 2023.



Group photo of participants at the Commemoration of international Widows' Day in Togo

Widows who have benefitted are reporting an increase in their financial income, in a way that they are able to support their families financially better than before. Besides, AACC, through the Council of Churches in Tanzania (CCT), supported and participated in a

unique and ground breaking Conference that transcended National and denominational boundaries, by bringing together about 130 widows from different churches and countries in East Africa. The Conference was organized by Amazing Grace: Africa through CCT. The Conference, held in Nairobi from 7-12 August 2023, was a key milestone towards widows' empowerment, awareness creation about the plight of widows and strengthening their agency to stand-up for their rights, as well as sharing



Group photo of participants at the Amazing Grace East Africa Widows' Conference



experiences, best practices and theological basis of caring for widows.

Widows' projects have generated awareness about the plight of widows and interest to address it by churches through giving additional support. Furthermore, one of the unintended outcomes from reports by recipients is that the projects generated by the small grants have ignited some churches to look into the welfare of other marginalized groups such as single mothers, persons with disabilities, orphans and the poor, among others. AACC has been monitoring progress through hosting of virtual meetings where beneficiaries share experiences, best practices and challenges in implementing the projects.

Below is a newspaper caption showing an example of an unintended outcome of widows' grant where Thundu CCAP Church in Malawi is not only addressing the plight of widows but also the vulnerable and calling upon churches to follow suit.

Women's Rights: The AACC was mandated by the 11th General Assembly to undertake practical measures to promote the rights of women and men, with a special focus on the rights of women who are more vulnerable, as a way of promoting the theme of the assembly "Respecting the Dignity and God's Image in Every Human Being." Besides the biblical foundations for gender equality, the other driving forces for AACC's advocacy on women's rights, are the legally binding global and continental instruments for gender justice with special focus on SDG (SDG 5) and the AU Agenda 2063 Aspiration 6. In this regard, the AACC has engaged with the African Union and UN Women on gender concerns and involvement of women in decision making through advocacy and policy influencing engagements where AACC influenced engagements where AACC collaborated with UN, UN Women and UNFPA at various levels. Some of the main activities included participation at different sessions of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) in New York, participation of Faith Actors at the Nairobi Summit-12-14 November 2019 where AACC took lead and in collaboration with other Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) organized religious leaders to take 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. Prior to the Nairobi Summit (ICPD25),





The above engagements have strengthened collaboration between AACC, AUC, UN Women and other partners and the role of AACC as a representative of FBOs enhanced and the need for collaboration between AUC, UN Women, FBOs and CTLs strengthened. AACC has added its voice and the voices of Religious Leaders to CPD and ICPD by contributing towards formation of the

AACC hosted a forum where Religious leaders’ engaged with the key Principal hosts of Nairobi Summit from the Governments of Denmark and Kenya. This forum increased opportunities of religious leaders to participate actively at the Summit.

Statements from Faith Leaders, usually read in plenary sessions of these global forums. CPD52 provided an opportunity for Faith Actors’ engagement in high-level advocacy at the UN through side events, panel discussions, presentation of their Communique at the plenary, in which they shared their commitments to implement ICPD PoA, in collaboration with governments and other stakeholders.

Another significant collaborative activity has been with UN Women, African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), and Communities of Traditional Leaders (CTLs), where UN Women and AUC is working with Religious Leaders and CTLs to end violence against women and girls in Africa. AACC represents FBOs in the Continent and is considered an important stakeholder in the achievement of GEWE. Further, AACC is a member of the Civil Society Regional Reference Group (CSRRG). CSRRG is a group of 15-pre-eminent regional gender experts selected to give visibility, advisory, technical and monitoring support to the overall Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Program (SIARP). SIARP is a multi-year program of EU and UN to end violence against women and girls by the year 2030.



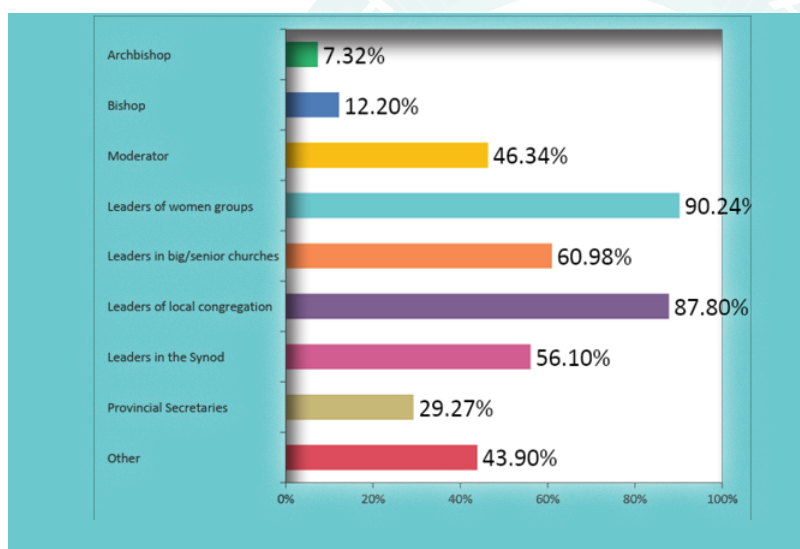
African Union | Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme (SIARP) | Civil Society Regional Reference Group (CSRRG) | Work Plan Development & Team Building Meeting | 20 - 22 April 2022, Nairobi, Kenya

V) Gender Equality in Church Leadership:

This programmatic goal endeavoured to enhance women’s participation in church leadership, promote gender sensitive interpretation of the bible (interpretation of gender-biased biblical texts), conduct a survey on



Enhancing Women’s participation in church leadership in Cameroon-Moderator Dr. Samuel Fonki of Presbyterian Church in Cameroon creating a safe space for over 100 female priests from his church for experience sharing, empowerment and mutual support



Graphical representation of leadership positions held by women in churches.

the level of women’s involvement in church leadership and support advanced training for potential women leaders. AACC organized meetings on “*The Role of Religion in Enhancing Women’s Full and Effective Participation in Leadership*”, as part of interventions aimed at promoting gender sensitive interpretation of the Bible. During the period under review, a survey was conducted which revealed that women hold key positions in the church leadership.

Nevertheless, they are significantly underrepresented in top leadership positions. Findings from the forty one respondents show that only 7.32% women are holding the position of Archbishop and 12.20% holding the position of Bishop. The highest leadership positions that women hold are leaders of women groups with 90.24% and leaders of local congregation, which stands at 87.80%.



Gender insensitive biblical texts continue to be used as divine sanctions to reinforce cultural and traditional barriers that subject women to a state of subservience, thus denying them sufficient occupation of senior leadership positions in church and society. To some extent, deeply rooted patriarchal culture and social norms restrict women from taking-up public leadership roles. There is need to promote the theology of gender equality among clergy, Christians and in theological institutions in order to counter non-liberating biblical texts, cultural beliefs, practices and traditions that are life-denying.

vi) Women and entrepreneurship:

The goal was to promote women entrepreneurial skills development for wealth creation. The AACC aimed at creating a forum for women entrepreneurs to share ideas and showcase success stories for inspiration of other women. During the period under review, AACC organized an exchange programme for women entrepreneurs under the theme “Promoting Women’s Entrepreneurship in Africa” which was in line with this thematic focus to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in the continent. By organizing this forum, the AACC sought to strengthen the knowledge and

skills of women entrepreneurs by supporting mechanisms for mentorship and increased access to finance for business growth as well as enlightening women on the development agenda, especially the benefits that come with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), to promote their economic empowerment.

The Entrepreneurship exchange program was held in-person in Nairobi, Kenya and virtually for a section of participants who could not travel to Nairobi. It was attended by women Entrepreneurs drawn from Pentecostal and Methodist churches in seventeen African countries including Nigeria, Togo, Cote d’Ivoire, Madagascar, Senegal, Ghana, South Africa, DRC, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Kenya among others. It was designed to provide a platform for women entrepreneurs to learn, network and exchange innovative ideas from other successful entrepreneurs



Group Photos of women entrepreneurs attending the exchange program – November 2021



and innovators in the continent, create a space for networking and role-modelling amongst the participating entrepreneurs, provide a platform for learning ethical leadership principles in business and strengthen and facilitate knowledge sharing among women on challenges and opportunities in entrepreneurship in Africa. The methodology employed during the discussions included presentations, interactive sessions and roundtable discussions. Presenters were drawn from diverse fields which included business owners with specialization in dairy and crop farming, mining, catering, marine, construction and tailoring industries among others; policy specialists, impact-first social venture managers and the media. The presentations were accentuated by participants' personal experiences of their entrepreneurial journeys.

Besides, on women and entrepreneurship, women and girls' economic projects that apply and qualify have continued to receive grants from the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC), through the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC). ICFLC also offers competitive scholarship grants for younger women and older women pursuing education or business. 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, to reflect on issues of peace, reconciliation, justice and empowerment of women. AACC was privileged to host the 39th ICFL meeting in Ghana in October 2019. This was the second time Africa was hosting the conference since its inception in 1956.



Some of the products enabled by the widows' grant



2.2.2. Youth

Several youth activities were undertaken during the period under review. These were carried out as outlined in the AACC-2019-2023 strategy as follows:

a) Youth employment and Entrepreneurship:

The programmatic goal was to foster job creation and innovation among the youth by: encourage churches to create opportunities for exchange programs for young people, showcasing success stories of young people (innovation, small-scale enterprises, etc.), fighting drugs and substance abuse and organizing youth contests (essay competitions, etc.). These were carried out as follows:

- i) **Encourage churches to create opportunities for exchange programs for young people:** The AACC Youth desk launched a platform called the All Africa Youth Network (AAYN) which has been active throughout the period in advancing the youth agenda in the continent.

The network has engaged in dialogues on SRHR and Gender Justice, facilitated meaningful youth participation in ICPD 25 Nairobi Summit, Youth Side events on Gender Justice and SRHR, AACC Youth consultation on COVID 19 and an Intergenerational Dialogue on Population and SRHR.

- ii) **Showcasing success stories of young people (innovation, small-scale enterprises etc):** AACC organized a young entrepreneur round table exchange program in Nairobi, Kenya. The young entrepreneurs who participated in the program networked and exchanged ideas on different enterprises that the young people were running. They also learnt about regional policies such as AfCFTA and had an opportunity to visit youth projects in Nairobi.

Following this exchange program, the participants were encouraged and supported to continue showcasing their innovations in their local communities and countries so as to inspire other young people with entrepreneurial abilities. The process resulted into the establishment of several businesses among youths in the AACC member churches. A number of the young people who benefited from this program were present at the All Africa Youth Congress reported about later, to share their testimonies, experiences and also inspire more young people to change their innovative and business ideas into a reality.



AACC Youth Participants at ICPD25 Summit in Nairobi



Some of the Youth Entrepreneurs at the Roundtable Exchange Program in October 2021

iii) Youth advocacy for tax justice:

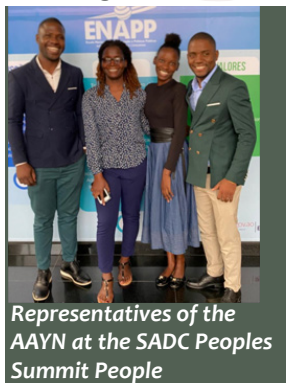
This initiative was established in Partnership with NCA Southern Africa Regional Office and the youth for Tax justice network (YTJN). The initiative aims at lobbying for tax systems that foster the establishment and growth of youth-led economic enterprises. The following activities were done under this initiative.



Young entrepreneurs touring the Palm House Dairy Plant in Kenya in October 2021

- **Advocacy at the SADC People's Summit:** In 2023, the Advocacy for tax justice involved our youth leaders participating in the SADC people's summit and express solidarity to the people of the South African region in their search for Justice and dignity. Our youth leaders advocated for the transformation of the tax systems impeding the holistic growth and development of the

SADC region and urged SADC heads of state to prioritize the wellbeing of their people over their personal ambitions. Additionally, the youth leaders, together with representatives from the YTJN, and NCA Southern Africa organized dialogues creating awareness about the UN tax convention and its potential to contribute to the transformation of oppressive tax systems in the Southern Africa Region.



Representatives of the AAYN at the SADC Peoples Summit



Laqitissa Tseco representing the AAYN at the SADC Peoples Summit People deliver a solidarity message to the people of Southern Africa



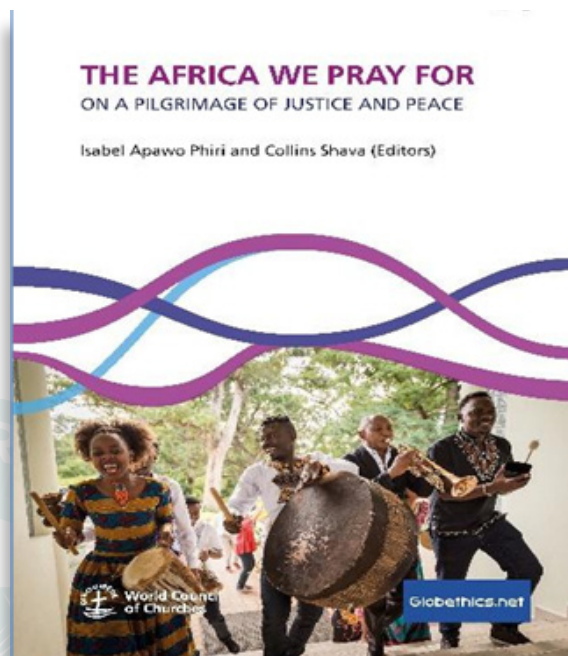


- **Capacity building on advocating for Economic justice:** We ensured that our youth leaders participate in various capacity building forums with the potential of enhancing their knowledge, skills and potential to advocate for Economic justice. Key among these included the NCA Eastern and Southern Africa Youth leaders Exchange forum organized by the NCA, the Tax Justice school organized by the Tax Justice Network, and the NEFIA International Consultation on Labour. Members of the AAYN were engaged and made presentations on the impact of international labour policies on Youth employment in Africa at the International Financial and Economic Architecture (NIFEA) consultation on Labor taking place in Kuala Lumpur.



Ms. Aline; a member of the AAYN Presenting at the NIFIA consultation in Malaysia

- iv) **Youth Essay Competition:** This initiative involved organizing essay competitions that provided a platform for the African young people to



research and create awareness about various issues affecting the continent. Two essays competitions were organized. The first essay was in collaboration with the World Council of Churches where the AACC invited young people from the African continent to contribute to the discussion on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, with its three dimensions of celebrating life together – visiting wounds and engaging in transformative action – in the African context. Participants reflected on four closely interrelated themes: Truth and Trauma (peacebuilding), Land and Displacement (economic, ecological justice and migration), Gender Justice and Racial Justice. This collection of selected essays shares the dreams and aspirations of these young people towards *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want goals*. Aspiration 6 of the



African Union is for an Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children. The essay competition provided a platform for youth to engage in research and write their aspirations of the Africa They Want, an Africa they pray for, as the future guardians of the continent. This essay is available at <https://www.globethics.net/the-africa-we-pray-for>.

The second essay competition was done in collaboration with NCA Southern Africa Regional Office on Inequality, Gender and Extractives. This essay competition provided a platform for youth across the African continent to research, critically analyze, write and share ideas on the linkages between the extractive industries and economic inequality in Africa. The participants were also expected to make recommendations on how the extractive industries can be fully leveraged to fight the scourge of economic inequality in the continent. The youth submitted their essays according to the guidelines set by the organizers. The guidelines categorized participation in three age groups, 15-18, 19-25 and 26-35 years. The organizers engaged three adjudicators to support this process. 300 youths expressed interest to participate in the competition. By the deadline, 121 essays were submitted. The essays were written in English, French and Portuguese. 10 essays were classified as the top ten. The winners were given prize awards

and certificates of excellence. The rest of the participants received certificates of participation.

2.2.2.1. Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization:

This focused on establishing an Interfaith Youth Movement for Peace Building that would provide platforms for awareness creation, create opportunities for young people of different faiths to interact, use social media to promote peace building in Africa and collaborate with the African Union interfaith Programmes and other actors. In collaboration with the Burundi Council of Churches, AACC organized a workshop to sensitize young people on the importance of peace in Burundi. The workshop empowered 45 young people from the Islamic community, Protestant churches and Catholic churches to engage in deepening the culture of peace in Burundi. Working with the Interfaith Youth Movement for Peace Building in Burundi, these beneficiaries have been organizing different social activities aimed at fostering peaceful co-existence. Among these include interfaith soccer games, netball, arts competitions and collaboration with interfaith programmes. These were done as follows:

- a) **Collaboration with the AU interfaith Programmes:** AACC created opportunities for young people to participate in different AU CIDO and iDOVE interfaith Programmes where they engaged in dialogues



highlighting the role of religion in preventing violent extremism (PVE).



AAYN members with the AU Youth Envoy in Nairobi, 2023

Additionally, the youth executive secretary engaged with the AU CIDO iDOVE and collaborated with the AU interfaith programmes and other actors in different dialogues on preventing violent extremism (PVE), through drawing on the soft power of religion where some selected youths attended these dialogues either as participants or speakers.

- b) **Use of social media for peace promotion and peace building in Africa:** Young people were engaged in the AU's flagship project of Silencing the Guns. A social media campaign was launched to popularize and advance an advocacy Campaign on Silencing the Guns by 2020. The campaign was supported with online promotions and adverts on social media that

reached out to a wide audience. It collected over 2000 signatures and raised awareness on the AU's goal to silence the guns by 2020. These signatures were submitted to the AUC leadership. Different forums were also held for young people to strategize on how to advance the campaign. A documentary on *Silencing the Guns* in Africa was done, featuring youth voices from 5 countries in the RPP region: Burundi, South Sudan, Ethiopia, DRC and Kenya. It captured the voices of young people from AACC member churches sharing perception and understanding of the *Silencing the Guns* initiative. The documentary was circulated to different platforms where it could be easily accessed by the target audience comprising the African Young people, the AU heads of state and other duty bearers. After 2020, the campaign was extended throughout the period of the implementation of AACC's 2019-2023 strategy following AU extending the target of meeting the goal of the campaign to 2023. The documentary can be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qirUqkl-GYM>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juOSlds7paA>

The youth also shared their messages to the African Union Heads of State. The documentary with messages from the youth was used for advocacy as part of the Silencing the Guns campaign that was spearheaded by the AACC youth desk.

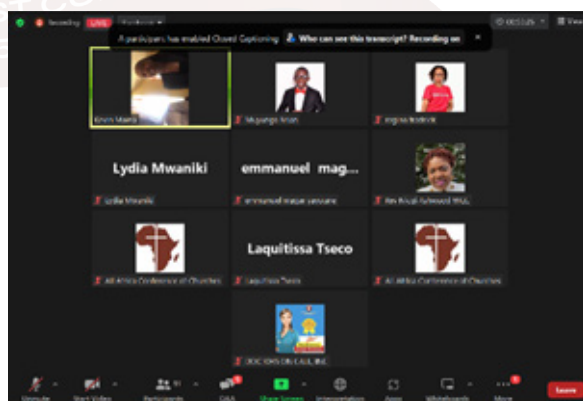


intragenerational conversations on sexual and reproductive health, gender justice, digitalization, climate change, and economic justice. The engagements organized by the network have been key in empowering young people to make informed SRH choices, creating awareness on climate change matters, promoting gender equality among the young people, empowering young people identify opportunities offered by digitalization and the challenges to address and to increase the safety of African people in the digital world. Members of this network participated in various international and continental events where they advocated for the interests of the African young people. The network participated in most of the youth work activities and engagements and were instrumental in the celebrations of international days such as the Day of the African Child, International Youth Day, International Day of Peace etc.

2.2.2.2. Youth and African Patriotism:

Under this thematic area, the AACC initiated a youth campaign on Youth Patriotism in Africa titled “Africa: My Home, My Future” and organized an All Africa Youth Congress to launch the campaign and inspire youth to love their countries. Social media advocacy on Pan Africanism was heightened where the AACC created awareness on the achievements of African countries, societies, and promoted the diversities and talents in African countries. This also provided the platform for discussion to own and popularize the Agenda 2063 for a United, Peaceful and Prosperous Africa. The following key activities took place:

- i) **Establishment of the All Africa Youth Network:** The All Africa Youth Network (AAYN) was established as a platform from AACC members to connect, share experiences and resources, promote African Patriotism and to mobilize youths for the fulfillment of the Agenda 2063 for the Africa we want. The network has popularized the vision as aspirations of Agenda 2063 among the different congregations of AACC’s member churches. Additionally, it provided platforms for young people to engage in intergenerational and



Virtual Intergenerational Conversations on SRHR attracted over 90 participants



Youth leaders celebrating International Youth day 2023 at the PCEA Milele Presbyterian Conference center Gardens, Nairobi Kenya , 12th August 2023

ii) Planning meetings leading to the All Africa Youth Congress:

Several physical and online meetings were held by the AAYC Steering Committee, AACC staff and other stakeholders in the preparation of the congress. These meetings offered an opportunity to the 12 young people in the steering committee, and 75 young people in the technical working committees to showcase their leadership capabilities but also be mentored by senior religious and civil society leaders involved in organizing the congress. The technical working committees included the spiritual committee (responsible for the spiritual and worship aspect of the

congress), the hospitality and welfare committee (responsible for the logistical and hospitality issues of the congress), the programs committee (responsible for developing the congress program and identifying resource personnel) and the publicity committee (responsible for publicizing the committee).

iii) Pre-Congress Meetings:

Three Pre-congress meetings bringing together youth leaders from selected member churches took place before the actual pre-assembly. These included the Nigeria Pre-congress, The Nairobi Pre-Congress and the Ghana Pre-Congress. The pre-congress meetings were very fundamental in setting the congress agenda.



A section of participants at the Pre-Congress meetings in Nigeria and Nairobi respectively



AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki leading the AACC delegation meeting with H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo

preparations for the Youth Congress.

iv) **The All Africa Youth Congress:** From 30th October 2022 to 5th November 2022, the AACC held its first-ever All Africa Youth Congress (AAYC) at the Pentecostal Convention Centre, Kasoa – Accra Ghana. The congress was the official launch of

In addition to the steering committee meetings, coordination meetings were organized and held with the working committees for the congress on a monthly basis, between May and October 2022. These working committees included the Spiritual committee (responsible for the spiritual and worship aspect of the congress), the hospitality and welfare committee (responsible for the logistical and hospitality issues of the congress), the programs committee (responsible for developing the congress program and identifying resource personnel) and the publicity committee (responsible for publicizing the committee). In these meetings, the members were guided on how to carry on their mandate, and also provided accountability reports to the secretariat for effective accompaniment. The General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki also led a delegation of the AACC and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) to meet with the President of Ghana, H. E. Nana Akufo-Addo, to brief him on the

the AACC campaign to inspire young people to be patriotic to their countries and Africa by utilizing their talents and gifts towards building a thriving continent. The gathering brought together over 1000 young people for ecumenical fellowship, transformative conversations and network building. With “Africa: My Home. My Future” as the main theme, the congress ran on four main themes: Youth and African Patriotism, Active Citizenship, Peace and Security and African Dignity. ELCA’s support enabled AACC to sponsor 10 members of the All-Africa Youth Network to participate in the congress and also facilitate side events on peace and security in Africa, youth participation in democratic processes, sexual and reproductive health, and deconstructing legacies of slavery. The key outcomes of youth engagement in the side events were creating a safe space for dialogue and building story line for advocacy at the church levels, continental and among the youth.



Some Youth delegates at the Congress

The recommendations will inform areas of continued intervention by AACC on SRHR issues. The congress was the official launch of AACC's campaign on Youth and Pan-Africanism to inspire young people to be patriotic to their countries and utilize their talents, gifts and resources to building Africa into the thriving continent they desire to live in.

The young people worshipped together, celebrated their identity and their contributions to the continent's development, engaged in transformative conversations and also built supportive networks.

Additionally, to serve as the official launch of AACC's Campaign for Youth and Pan-Africanism, the congress popularized the continental development agendas among the young people. It strengthened the spirit of ecumenism among young people in

Africa and resulted into the formation of national and regional pan-African youth movements whose work runs on the congress slogan "Africa: My Home, My Future."

The All Africa Youth Congress was successfully held in Ghana and young people published a declaration that expressed their commitment to Africa's sustainable development.

The intergenerational dialogues also brought to the fore the contentious and sensitive issues of SRHR and gender justice. This offered the youths opportunities to construct, debate and engage senior church leaders on sensitive and contentious issues within the church on areas such as safe abortion, family planning eliminating gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies and access to sexual reproductive health among



other related issues. The leadership skills of the youths who served in the AAYC steering committee and working committees were developed.

Various side events at the All Africa Youth Congress were held which provided recommendations that will inform AACC's next strategic plan and its focus on issues of Gender, SRHR, Peace, Justice and Dignity, Economic and Ecological Justice, and Unconstitutional Change of Governments (UOG) and advocacy concerns among young people in the continent.

Follow up Activities Carried out by the Youth Desk

- a) **AAYC Follow up and Evaluation Webinars:** National Youth leaders from the countries represented in the AAYC met in February 2023 to evaluate the success of the congress, share experiences and strategize on how to sustain the momentum of promoting the Pan-Africanism spirit built by the congress.
- b) **AAYN Consultations on Ecumenism and Interreligious Collaboration:** this was an in-person consultation held on 9th March 2023 aimed at deepening the spirit of Ecumenism and creating awareness on the need for interreligious collaboration among youth leaders in Kenya. Following this consultation, the Kenyan Youth leaders formed a leadership platform that

organized a virtual continental consultation on Ecumenism in Africa held in April 2023. This meeting provided an opportunity for Continental Youth leaders to inform the process of developing AACC's strategy 2024/2028.

- c) **Continental Prayer meetings:** The AAYN initiated a culture of holding monthly prayer meetings as a way of expressing ecumenical solidarity. The prayer meetings happen every first Friday of the month. Since this initiative began, the meetings have served as a platform for bringing together young people and church leaders from across the continent to pray together and also engage in theological conversations on the AU Agenda 2063: The Africa we want.
- d) **African Theological students Consultation on Gender and Pandemics:** Members of the AAYN were invited to participate in a consultation organized in collaboration with the Humboldt Research hub in Africa, Zimbabwe. This took place at the AACC headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The event empowered 40 young theologians with knowledge and skills to undertake research projects that promote gender justice and holistic wellbeing.

ALL AFRICA
Youth
CONGRESS
AFRICA: MY HOME | MY FUTURE

A Cross section of young people at the congress celebrating their identity





2.3. Peace, Diakonia and Development

This programmatic pillar area drew its inspiration from the AACC’s vision of “**Churches in Africa Together for Life, Peace, Justice and Dignity**,” reflecting the compelling priority that peace, diakonia and development have been given by the ecumenical body. This shared vision of AACC made it a paramount endeavor for its members to be deliberate and intentional in their work for peace, diakonia services and development engagement for human wellbeing and societal transformation. It was no news that a number of African countries were confronted by different challenges that interrupted, impeded and interfered with peace, harmony and serenity during the period under review. We constantly heard of violence and brutal attacks on innocent citizens. Such situations of non-peace, non-harmony and instability contributed in greater extent to undermining human dignity and fullness of life. Therefore, this pillar focused on peace, diakonia and development, where AACC accompanied 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.

2.3.1. Peace

Through this thematic pillar, the AACC accompanied member churches and institutions on conflict prevention, deepening culture of peace. While violent conflicts increased, triggered by diminishing resources and opportunities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and compounded by governance challenges and disputes over national elections across the continent, the AACC intensified its ecumenical pastoral presence in difficult environments, championing reconciliation and mediation initiatives in different countries. The AACC increased its presence in the continent and continued to maintain ecumenical pastoral presence for reconciliation

and peace in difficult situations accompanying her member churches in the continent. Activities carried out under this programmatic pillar were as follows.

- a) **Maintaining High-level Ecumenical Diplomacy:** AACC accompanied several African countries in difficult situations such as South Sudan, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Congo Brazzaville, Central Africa Republic, and Zimbabwe. Peace and solidarity visits were organized to countries such as DRC where the AACC delegation met with



representatives from the Church of Christ in Congo Representatives, Honorable Martin Fayulu (loser of the presidential election), the Forum of AACC and WCC member-churches in the 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). Additionally, a high-level ecclesial ecumenical roundtable meeting was organized in Nairobi attended by 17 Eminent persons which included esteemed church leaders such as Archbishop of the Catholic Church,

Nairobi diocese, the Archbishop of the Anglican church as well as the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Kenya. The church leaders were briefed on the context of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). At the end, a number of advocacy issues and advocacy areas were defined and a task force was created to propose a road map to accompany the churches and people of DRC. This led to the solidarity visit to DRC by Eminent persons held between 8-12 November 2022.

The Eminent persons met with the Conference of Catholic bishops of DRC and also held discussions with the leadership of the National Independent



A delegation of AACC Eminent persons meeting with the Leadership of the Independent National Election Commission of DRC to talk about preparedness towards 2023 general elections in DRC. Photo taken in Kinshasa, 10 November 2022



Electoral Commission of DRC. The team was led by Archbishop Martin Nyaboho, AACC vice president for the Central Africa region.

AACC in collaboration with other ecumenical partners conducted a joint ecumenical solidarity visit to the church, the government and the people of Sudan. The goal of the Ecumenical Solidarity visit was to reiterate the long-standing commitment of the ecumenical

family to accompany the churches and people of Sudan, to pray with and for the churches and people of Sudan and to express support for their tireless efforts to secure lasting peace and stability in their nation, stand firm and keep their prophetic voice as a witness of their faith. The delegation met with different stakeholders including church, women, youth, government and civil society. His Excellency, the president of the Sovereign Council, General Abdel Fattah



AACC delegates meeting His Excellency, the president of the Sovereign Council, General Abdel Fattah al Burhan



al Burhan also received the delegation where he made a commitment on the transition to democratic governance. The delegation prayed for the country.

A solidarity visit was done to Zimbabwe in June 2023 where the AACC delegation interacted on the level of preparedness for peaceful elections and called for peace before, during and after the elections. On the same day, the delegation was received at State House by His Excellency, Emerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe. The Head of the delegation, Archbishop Emeritus Martin Blaise Nyaboho presented a Statement appealing for peace but also for responses to some of the issues raised by the churches leaders, civil society organizations and political parties. In his remarks and response, President Mnangagwa thanked the AACC and the Council of Churches in Zimbabwe. He re-

iterated his commitment to peace and peaceful elections. He asked the AACC and the Church to pray for the country but also to advocate for the lifting of the sanctions against Zimbabwe. The Head of the delegation thereafter addressed the press. Later in the afternoon, the delegation had fruitful engagements with the UN office, the Independent Electoral Commission as well as the National Human Rights Commission.

Eminent Persons were trained and given orientation before they proceeded for the solidarity visits. During the orientation, a contextual analysis would be presented by experts based on each country's context, in order to prepare and help the team understand some of critical socio-political issues of each country. Eminent persons were deployed to South Sudan, Sudan, Burundi, Ethiopia, DRC and Zimbabwe. In



AACC delegation of AACC Eminent Persons meeting with religious leaders, Dec 6, 2019



The AACC delegation visit to South Sudan meeting with President Salvar Kiir

some of these countries, they engaged with the leadership of the country as well as the opposition and also engaged with electoral management bodies.

In South Sudan, the AACC Eminent Persons delegation was led by the AACC President, Bishop Emeritus Arnold Temple. They visited the local administration in Juba, CSOs in Juba and the leadership of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC). The climax of the visit was a courtesy call to the president of the Republic of South Sudan, H. E. Salva Kiir. The team thanked him for his important role in facilitating the peace process while at the same time reminding him of the

commitments he has made to bring about sustainable peace in South Sudan through the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), signed in Addis Ababa on 12 September 2018. The team also implored on him to ensure that the different asks/requests regarding the implementation of the Revitalized agreement are considered for the benefit of the people of South Sudan.

Further AACC, mobilized, trained and deployed international elections observers in different countries that went through elections during the period under review. These were



AACC international observers at one of the polling station in Lusaka, Zambia, August 12, 2021



Kenya Elections on August 9, 2022 - AACC international observers at Westlands Primary School polling station, Nairobi



deployed to observe elections in Benin, Burundi, Congo Brazzaville, Gambia, Ghana, Togo, Cote D'Ivoire, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

b) Facilitating Reconciliation and mediation initiatives: Reconciliation and Mediation initiatives were carried out in Congo Brazzaville in order to bolster reconciliation and mediation initiatives in Congo Brazzaville. The AACC held consultations with 30 key stakeholders for peace in the period before, during and after the country's national elections held during the year. Attempts to send an observer mission to the elections were unsuccessful, owing to lack of accreditation of all faith-based organizations.

The AACC supported conflict resolution processes in Cameroon. Being part of the global ecumenical initiative on Anglophone Cameroon crisis "Global Ecumenical Forum on Cameroon", AACC, in its ecumenical commitment for a just society where justice – freedom, equality and respect for human dignity are nurtured – collaborated with other ecumenical partners to support churches in this country. A joint statement with other ecumenical institutions was issued calling on the government of Cameroon to heed to the call for ceasefire, and end the mindless killings in the country.

c) Assisting churches to play a pro-active role in preventing potential conflicts: AACC accompanied member Churches in their interventions

in conflict transformation and peace building in their different interventions to transform conflicts and build peace in their respective countries. The AACC continued to convene and participate in different networks where different partners came together to listen, get updates, share, plan, support and coordinate interventions in the different countries. The forums created spaces for reflection, discussions, dialogue, experience sharing, learning and calling for unity among church leaders and other others in an effort to bring peace to some of these troubled countries. Some of these networks included the Ecumenical Network on South Sudan (ENSS), Cameroun and Mozambique. These would be followed by solidarity visits to these countries.

The AACC also organized different in-country consultations to empower church leaders and practitioners to be able to play a proactive role in deepening a culture of peace and peaceful coexistence. These consultations were attended by very prominent and active religious leaders and successfully ended with a communique and call to action. Such consultations included the exchange meeting on concerted Local Approaches in peacebuilding and conflict transformation held Nairobi in 2019.



Participants to the continental workshop on concerted local approaches in peacebuilding and conflict transformation, Nairobi, Nov 2019

Further, in-country consultations were held in Liberia, Central Africa republic, South Sudan, Burundi, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Cameroon. In Liberia, the consultation that was attended by very prominent and active religious leaders successfully ended with a communique and call to action. The leadership and the entire membership of the council extended thanks to the AACC for the support to organize the two days consultation on strengthening peace consolidation in Liberia. The outcome of the conference was acknowledged as a great contribution to peace sustainability and a leap way to strengthen national peace and reconciliation drive that could be transmittable to other neighboring countries.

In Central Africa Republic, forty religious leaders including 26 males and 14 females (of which 5 youth) attended. Very prominent and active religious leaders favorably responded to the invitation by the Eglise Protestante Christ Roi from the Protestant Churches, the Catholic Church which was represented at high level by His Excellency Cardinal Dieudonne Nzapalainga, the metropolitan Archbishop of Bangui and by Muslims. The consultation successfully ended with a communique and call to action. The consultation was also an opportunity for the religious to meet and this contributed to a revival of the Interreligious/interfaith platform, which was a bit dormant for some time. The leadership of the Eglise Protestante Christ Roi extended appreciation and thanked the AACC for the technical and financial support.



Group photo of the participants to the workshop, Bujumbura, 27 July 2023

In Burundi, 35 religious leaders from the protestant, Catholic and Muslim communities came together to reflect on key thematic areas that included the role of faith communities in social justice, understanding social inequalities in the Great Lakes region and their implication/impact in the conflicts, the impact of inequalities on social cohesion in Burundi, inequalities and the politics of reconciliation in Burundi, religious diplomacy for a just society and key steps in advocacy towards elimination of inequalities in Burundi. They engaged in intense discussions to deepen understanding of the issues surrounding inequalities in Burundi and how they breed conflicts. They came up with recommendations for advocacy strategies and proposals for advocacy initiatives, understanding the issues of inequalities in their context, on sensitization and raising their voices against the inequalities as well as how to utilize the skills they received to advocate for reduction of inequalities.



In Cameroon, roundtable meeting with religious Leaders focused on building and understanding their role in peace building, deepening unity of religious leaders and understanding their role for effective coordination and collegial actions in the country. 35 religious leaders from the Reformed, Evangelical, Protestant, Catholic, Pentecostal, Muslim communities and ecumenical partners came together to deepen their understanding and strengthen collegiality among themselves for effective religious diplomacy. The meeting also included engagements with diplomatic missions in Cameroon as well as a visit to His Excellency the Prime Minister and Head of Government of Cameroon. The Prime Minister thanked the delegation in particular and the religious leaders in Cameroon in general for their efforts to build peace and their continued spiritual, moral and physical accompaniment to the people of Cameroon. He elaborated on the efforts the government of Cameroon was making to ensure citizens of Cameroon enjoy sustainable peace. Participants came up with a plan of action, committed themselves for the implementation and dedicated the plans to God. The roundtable gave new momentum to the peace engagement of the religious communities in Cameroon and trust has been built through the various interactions. At the end of the roundtable conference, a coordinating committee of eleven religious leaders was appointed and the same drafted a powerful statement, a call for peace, that was issued to the nation of Cameroon.



Group photo of the religious leaders, participants in the roundtable together with international partners. Yaounde, August 9, 2023



The AACC further facilitated learning and exchanges between its member churches and councils. From 2019 up to 2023, the AACC facilitated two visits for two councils of Churches: Sudan Council of Churches and Zimbabwe Council of Churches. The two councils' leaderships together with their staff organized learning and exchange visits where the leadership of the councils and the staff visited Kenya and interacted with different partners including the AACC, NCKK, FECCLAHA, ACRL, and the Methodist Church. They successfully interacted with a focus on the following objectives:

- To learn and adopt best practices from the Church in Kenya on election work, humanitarian services and Church sustainability initiatives.
- To learn comprehensive approaches to countering shrinking democratic space
- To capture key advocacy issues on electoral reforms



ZCC Delegation visiting Nairobi on 15 March 2023



2.3.2. Migration and Human Trafficking

In this thematic area, the AACC increased awareness on the phenomenon and sought to address root causes of migration. Activities carried out focused on encouraging churches to include the issue of migration and human trafficking in the church agenda, promoting an Africa of Hope (Videos, documentaries on returnees, profile successful business women, etc.), working with European ecumenical institutions to address the challenge of Africa-Europe migration and developing linkages with Africans in the diaspora. During the period under review, the following activities were carried out:

a) Fact-finding mission to Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali on the situation and plights of migrants and returnees:

the aim was 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.

b) Participation in meetings, conferences and collaborative initiatives to create awareness against human trafficking:

AACC held meetings to discuss the overlapping issues between several categories of people on the move, especially refugees, internally displaced persons and victims of human trafficking. During these engagements, the AACC took the opportunity to share her activities and plans on migration and human trafficking and to meet practitioners working with people at grassroots level. Further

AACC participated as a strategic African partner, in different migration and displacement workshops, which provided learning on regional and global policy processes, including the 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. AACC also organized several consultations on migration and human trafficking for church leaders as well as mobilized young people to heighten their capacity in advocacy and created an online platform for the sharing of messages on issues relating to migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery. Further, as a tradition, the AACC continuously commemorated International Day against Trafficking in Persons using the day to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.





2.3.3. Climate Change

The AACC addressed the impact of Climate Change through various initiatives and engaged in advocacy at the national, continental and global levels on compliance with the Paris Agreement. The AACC's theme for this engagement has been “*The Welfare of the Earth is our Welfare*” (Jeremiah 29:7), with a focus on climate change, both as a spiritual and a moral concern and the related responsibilities. AACC also signed a programmatic memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) for cooperation and collaboration on related areas of climate justice and environmental stewardship. Further collaborative efforts were made with the United Nations Environment Programme, Act Alliance, Christian Aid, national Government departments and many more continental and global networks. AACC is currently serving in the Steering Committee of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). During the period under review, the following were the major highlights:

a) Establishment of the Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ):

This is a multi-faith, skilled and experienced platform made up of eco-theologians, academia, environmental activists, women, youths, people with disability (PDWs) and prominent individual faith leaders in various countries. The network is coordinated by the AACC through a steering committee that represents all the regions of Africa. It is currently active in twenty-five countries where it spearheads local and continental engagements on climate change matters. The AFAN-CJ facilitated the engagement of key stakeholders (including government officials, the Africa Group of Negotiators and civil society entities) at the continental and national levels to amplify the faith voices on climate justice matters. The network also participated in continental and global strategic platforms including the 2022 Africa Climate Week (ACW) in Gabon and the UNFCCC COP27 in Egypt. Furthermore, local initiatives meant to raise awareness of climate change effects were also fulfilled in eight countries.



AFAN-CJ in Gabon for the ACW, 2022



- b) **Accreditation at the UNFCCC:** AACC obtained its accreditation from the UNFCCC easing its participation in COP meetings and related discussions. This enabled AACC to register delegates who participated actively in COP26 in Glasgow, UK and COP 27 in Egypt.



AACC President, Rev. Arnold Temple leading the faith leaders in an engagement meeting at the COP27

The COP27 was a strategic platform for the AACC to show case its work on climate change and contribute to the formal discussions by parties. The AACC participated actively in the majority of the sessions organized and facilitated by the faith actors and the civil society at the COP27.

- c) **Continental High-Level Consultations on Climate Change:** High-level continental consultations on climate change, environment and creation care were organized by the AACC. Consultations were made in order to capture the faith voice on climate change that would influence strategic decisions at the ACW and COPs. Through the AFAN-CJ, AACC also gathered faith leaders in Rwanda in late 2022 to review the outcomes of the COP27.
- d) **Country-level campaigns on climate change:** The AACC supported the localized initiatives in various countries that were spearheaded by the AFAN-CJ members. Country-level awareness-raising activities were supported by ten countries (Lesotho, Kenya, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Ghana, Burundi and Sierra Leone). This was complemented by engagement and capacity-building activities meant to empower the faith communities on climate justice in those countries. Engagement was fulfilled with traditional leaders, faith leaders, Africa Group of Negotiators, Government Departments and the Civil Society. School children were particularly targeted as a strategic group of people that can help raise awareness of climate change effects. See examples in the links below:



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T19G2i5e3GxkPbgoj8h6rhQxGBeIc5C-/view?usp=drive_web

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02UsyrRvtJ84XbADXYw1MXTX-QLvHQTtDeq1JAtyHhvU48oms5BYLhFnNHDLkHRY7aRl&id=100089303380144&mibextid=Nif5oz

AACC continued to strengthen the capacity of AFAN-CJ and supported their country led local initiatives as well as in their understanding of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) focusing on Climate Finance for effective adaptation initiatives. Furthermore, these local initiatives meant to raise awareness of climate change effects were also fulfilled in six countries. The network also collaborated with other critical players in different countries as well as at the continental level thereby raising the visibility and faith voices on climate justice.

e) Climate Yes Campaign: Another significant progress in this area has been the engagement of young people through the Climate YES Movement which is a Global Network of young Christian Climate Activists. The AACC hosted the project from 2022 to date. The project started in August 2022, has supported the work and initiatives of the Climate YES Movement. The objectives of the Yes campaign are: a) To create an ecumenical faith movement of young activists from around the globe, b) To build capacities of youth through mobilizing ecumenical faith communities across the regions to understand climate change and biodiversity loss, c) Training and raising awareness on the effects of climate change, d) To help young activists to understand the Environment policy for the UNFCCC process, the sustainable development goals, loss & damage, etc, e) To understand how to form partnerships with interfaith and other organisations in society and f) To identify collective grassroots level action and climate commitments from each regional hub.

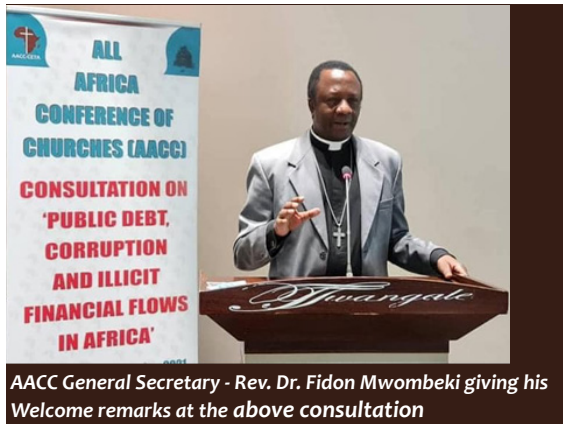




2.3.4. Advocacy for Economic Justice and a new Debt Crisis

a) Dialogues on Public Debt and Accountability

AACC engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogues on national debts, international aid and access to markets. It Advocated for Churches' commitment to economic



2021 hosted by the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ). The biblical message for this consultation was derived from Proverbs 31: 8 – 9: - “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy (NIV). It was from this perspective that the AACC engaged church leader to raise awareness on the new debt crisis among the AACC constituency, create a common and joint platform for AACC members to engage issues of Public Debt, Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs), discern as AACC and Members on the key asks to multilateral institutions and conceptualize advocacy entry points at national, regional, continental and global levels.

justice in the continent and produced critical advocacy tools of engagement on the twin challenges of corruption and public debt. Consultations on new debt crisis, corruption and illicit financial flows were held. A consultation on “Public Debt, Corruption & Illicit financial flows in Africa” was held in Lusaka, Zambia from 20th – 24th September,



Group photo of participants at the Stakeholders Dialogue on Public Debt in Zambia

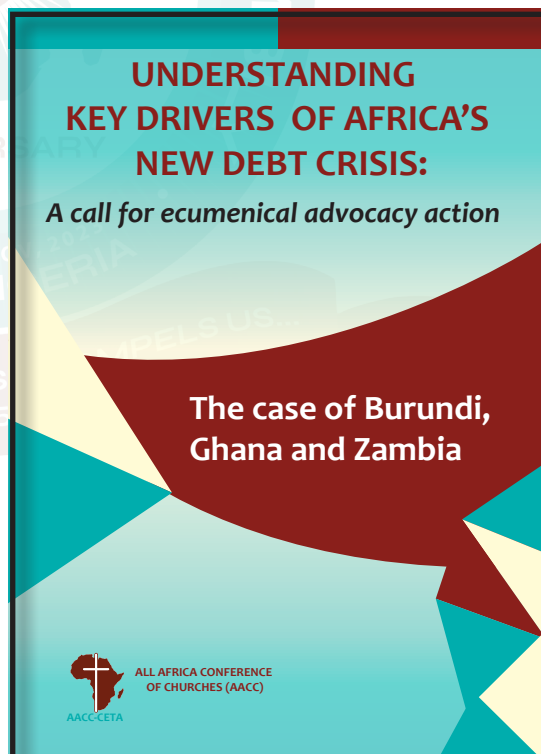


A Continental Stakeholders Dialogue Meeting on “Public Accountability and New Debts Crises in Africa” was also held in 2022 in Kenya under the theme: “Do nothing out of selfish Ambition... Consider Others First” (Philippians 2:3). The purpose of these consultations was to facilitate capacity strengthening of selected representatives of member churches of AACC to effectively engage key stakeholders including governments on public debts and corruption in the continent and beyond. Participants to the meetings included youth, women, men and ministers of religion. Experts and relevant key stakeholders drawn from the civil society, the African Union, Academia, Governments, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission members from African Countries facilitated the discussions.

b) Development of Advocacy Tools on Economic Justice

The AACC commissioned a study in Burundi, Zambia, and Ghana to profile the countries’ public debt with a particular focus on new debt emanating from the COVID-19 era, and other new development projects as well as the rise of new development financing partners such as China. The report further documented and analyzed the available national transparency and accountability mechanisms (frameworks) in the contraction and management of public debt in those countries. The study also involved the analysis of the social and economic impacts of the new public debt on ordinary citizens. Most importantly, it identified what the Church and other religious communities can do at national level to contribute towards the mitigation of the social and economic impacts of public debt on ordinary citizens. The report has been printed and is being disseminated.

public debt and corruption in Africa. This culminated in the development and distribution of a policy brief which has been useful among AACC members as an engagement tool on corruption and public debt.



Another study was commissioned and done focusing on the nexus between



c) Country-Level Capacity Strengthening Activities

Country-Level Capacity Strengthening on Public Debt Management and Accountability activity was held in collaboration with the National Council of Churches of Burundi from 5th – 9th December 2022 in Bujumbura. Thus, AACC created a safe dialogue space for various stakeholders to engage on issues of public debt, transparency and accountability in the governance of public resources. Government departments, anti-corruption commission, civil society, parliament and faith community were represented at the meeting. AACC was greatly appreciated for creating the dialogue space.

d) Engagements at the Youth Congress

Three side events were facilitated during the Youth Congress in Ghana. They focused on domestic resources mobilization as a strategy to avoid external borrowing: “Abundant Africa Initiative” and “Accountability in Africa.” The sessions were generally meant to motivate the youth to be active citizens of the continent with regards to natural governance, public accountability and other critical processes

e) AACC Participation in 2023 AMI

The AACC participated in the 14th edition of the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) in Cape Town, South Africa from 7-9 February 2023 through its Economic Justice Champions drawn from Malawi, Namibia, and South Africa. The AMI is a platform that has now turned into an ongoing process that was created by Faith Based Organisations (FBOS), and

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that are concerned with the social injustices that are prevalent and perpetual in the African Mining Industry. The AMI convenes an annual conference in Cape Town, which is a culmination of decentralized national processes that take place in more than 12 African countries as of the end of 2022. The gathering of CSOs, individual activists, Church leaders, small-scale miners, representatives of mining communities, and other stakeholders, is convened parallel to the official Mining Indaba that is held annually at the same time. The Mining Indaba is attended by big mining companies and government officials who meet to strategize for making more profits from Africa’s mineral resources. Thus, the AMI provides the participants with the opportunity to deliberate on ways that ensure that the host communities benefit from their mineral resources as they counter the resolutions at the official mining indaba.

The 2023 AMI was held under the theme “A Just energy transition for sustainable mining communities in a climate crisis era” and was attended by over 300 people from several countries in Africa. The AACC delegates actively participated in the main plenary sessions that focused on various topics including tax justice; Africa’s mineral resources and global governance, just energy transition, and others as well as side-event engagement sessions. The AACC’s participation was welcomed by various stakeholders considering that the organization is a pan-African one hence its influence is greatly required in advocacy around the continent’s natural resource management.



AACC delegates following discussions during a side event

World Mission (CWM), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), the World Methodist Council (WMC), and the World Council of Churches (WCC), on 20 May 2023 at the Mannah Conference Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa. The relaunch of ZacTax in Africa was part of the broader New International Financial and Economic Architecture (NIFEA) initiative, which has garnered

f) Relaunch of ZacTax Campaign

In an effort to address rising inequality, historical injustices, and the urgent need for climate action in Africa, AACC co-organized relaunch the Zacchaeus Tax (ZacTax) campaign. The campaign seeks to promote tax justice and reparations in the African region, aiming to counter the prevailing global tax system that disproportionately benefits multinational corporations and the wealthy elite at the expense of vulnerable populations. This was done in collaboration with, the Council for

support from CWM, LWF, WCRC, WMC, and WCC. By engaging with tax justice issues specific to the African region, the campaign seeks to ensure that its strategies and objectives align with the needs and realities of the continent. Additionally, this event served as an opportunity to raise awareness of the ZacTax campaign among churches in the region, fostering a deeper understanding of the importance of tax justice and reparations within faith communities.



Delegates to the ZacTax Campaign Relaunch in South Africa, 20 May 2023



2.3.5. Sustainable Population growth

This thematic area focused on highlighting the issue of sustainable population growth and its impact on development, demonstrating the link between population growth and development, assisting churches to responsibly engage in reproductive health issues and research to make available statistical data and analysis on population growth in Africa.

2.3.5.1. High-Level Consultation on Population Dynamics and Complexities in Africa

During the period under review, the AACC commissioned a research on population dynamics. The consultants that were commissioned conducted research in five randomly selected countries but in the five regional blocs of Africa except North Africa. The research report was presented at a High-Level Consultation on Population Dynamics and Complexities in Africa from 28th June – 2nd July 2021 at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya. Alongside the report a “Factsheet” was presented as an extract from the research report that summarized the existential reality of unsustainable population growth. Senior church leaders and youth representatives constructively engaged with both documents and made recommendations that led to the publishing of a discussion paper on “Sustainable Population for Sustainable Development.”

The discussion paper was circulated among member churches, councils and others during various programs and events organized by AACC. The Discussion Paper has continued to stimulate constructive conversations and life-giving debates among members and scholars at the different

events and spaces. A short video documentary produced to highlight the different perspectives and perceptions of church leaders, women and youth representatives during the high-level consultation. Here is the YouTube link to the documentary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPdMsv4lbyE>

Capacity strengthening session on sustainable population growth in Africa for church leaders for East and Horn of Africa region was carried out and drew participants coming from Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, and lastly Tanzania which was the host country. The participants were equipped with knowledge on population dynamics and the implications to the population in Africa and especially to the governments and the larger society. The participants were also equipped with knowledge on advocacy with the various stakeholders in the population sector to address the challenges arising, the participants committed to various action plans as individuals, organizations and even country representatives to move the position of AACC on population.



2.3.5.2. Capacity Strengthening Sessions on Sustainable Population Growth in Africa

Rapid and unsustainable population growth plays a major role in the decline of the wellbeing and welfare of citizens. The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) is concerned that population growth on the continent is not commensurate with the ability of African governments to provide basic social services. The standards of education and health on the continent keep falling and vices such as illegal migration, human trafficking, crimes and political unrest keep rising among African citizens. Challenges of unemployment, underemployment, persistent poverty, urban slums are also prevalent on the continent; as a fact, most African countries have no adequate social security and safety nets for their citizens.

The AACC intends to engage churches on the continent:

- By demonstrating to them the link between population growth and sustainable development
- By demonstrating how rapid population growth can have a profound effect on the wellbeing and dignity of the bulk of the African population in most African countries.

The AACC is committed to stimulating life-giving dialogue on population growth as a whole from a faith perspective through strengthening the capacities of faith actors on related areas of human demography and growth. It was on the basis of this that AACC organized a regional workshop for participants drawn from East and Central Africa from 30th May – 3rd June 2022 at New Safari Hotel Arusha, Tanzania.



Group photo of participants at the Capacity Strengthening session in Arusha Workshop



2.3.5.3. Theological Roundtable on Population and Demographic Dividends



Group photo of participants at the Theological Roundtable Meeting in Kampala.

The AACC discussion paper guiding the engagement of the population and development program, it was observed that high growth rates often resulted in an increase in unemployment, social crimes, like theft and robbery, diseases, high incidences of multidimensional poverty, and environmental pollution and degradation. From the theological discourses on population growth control, God gave man the responsibility to coexist with the created order and to take care of it (Genesis 1:26-28). Man is also mandated to provide for the family as in 1 Timothy 5:8, and this in extension by the government as dictated by societal arrangements and organizations. As humans multiply and replenish the earth, giving birth to children and leaving them unparented and without care is irresponsible and is denying the Christian faith as stated

in 1 Timothy 5:8. This is not far from pushing the children to wander in the streets, begging, unfed, unclothed, uneducated, without care and left to join gangsters. Hence discussions on population dynamics including trends related to urbanization, migration, ageing, and household composition, as well as population growth, are an important part of development discourse

The theological round table created viable space for discourse amongst esteemed theologians on dynamics and complexities associated with population growth that guided engagements among AACC membership on sustainable population growth and demographic dividends.



The theological roundtable shaped the methodological approach for developed ecumenical theological framework on sustainable population that will be grounded in the AACC's call for quality of life for all people for the wellbeing and dignity of the African population.

A theological reflection/round table meeting on Population and Demographic Dividends was held in Kampala Uganda from 25th -29th July 2022. Participants were drawn from

all over Africa with particular interest being on theologians and seminarians from the Africa region to deliberate and reflect on population growth in Africa and demographic dividend so as to develop and shape an ecumenical theological framework on sustainable population growth in Africa. This document would be used as a guidance tool for the AACC as it engages the membership on population and demographic dividend, as well as development in its various planned engagements.

2.3.5.4. Side Event on Youth & SRHR at the All Africa Youth Congress

A side event on Youth, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Population growth in Africa was held on 2nd November 2022 as a side event at the All Africa Youth Congress, organized by AACC in Ghana from 31st October – 5th November 2022. The side event brought together 119 youth and a few religious leaders. The objective was, increased involvement of AACC Youth in promoting sustainable population growth by addressing SRHR issues affecting the youth in Africa.

Some of the challenges identified were that young people in Africa continue to experience challenges in

accessing sexual reproductive health information and services. Further, one of the identified contributing factors to unsustainable population growth in the continent was adolescent and teenage pregnancies. Family sizes become smaller when girls stay longer in school and postpone pregnancy and marriage to a later date. However, this has not always been the case because of the rampant issue of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), which results in unplanned pregnancies among other SRHR related issues. The situation was worse during lockdowns put in place to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.



2.3.5.5. Roundtable Dialogue on Sustainable Families for Sustainable Population and Development

The Round table Dialogue on Sustainable Families for Sustainable Population and Development was held in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 7th December 2022. This country-specific campaign using high ranking religious leaders was held at the Protestant Cathedral-Kinshasa-DRC. It was organized in collaboration between AACC, Church of Christ in Congo (composed of over sixty Protestant denominations) and AACC Platform of Male Champions for Gender Justice in DRC. There were 30 leaders (24 men and 6 women) among them church leaders, Muslim religious leaders, AACC male champions for gender justice, heads of secondary schools, theologians and representatives of organizations dealing with families. The objective was to increase involvement of AACC member churches and religious leaders in promoting sustainable families for

sustainable population growth in DRC. A statement of commitment was developed and read in the presence of media houses and posted on social media platforms. Following this activity, male champions in DRC have continued with post-event country specific campaigns, creating awareness of the need for sustainable families for sustainable population in DRC and calling upon government to provide quality life to citizens. These messages have been disseminated through social media platforms, radio, television, newspapers and church services. See for example - <https://youtu.be/TDAhTXePsBg> where one of the champions Prof. David Mayele is calling the church to rise up and mobilize politicians to promote development in DRC in order to enable citizens to enjoy quality life. Below is a photo of the participants at the roundtable on 7th December 2022.



Group photo of participants at the round table meeting in DRC



2.3.5.6 Consultation on Sustainable Families for Sustainable Population Growth

In Togo, Consultation on Sustainable Families for Sustainable Population Growth with High-Ranking Religious leaders was held on 22nd June 2023. This was organized by the AACC in collaboration with the Platform of Male Champions for Gender Justice in Togo.

The objectives were to:

- a) Initiate dialogue with high-ranking religious leaders in Togo on Sustainable families for sustainable population growth in their country;
- b) Empower the high-level religious Leaders to initiate dialogue with their constituents, governments and other duty bearers on sustainable families for sustainable population growth in Togo;
- c) Increase understanding of the theological basis of sustainable families for sustainable population growth and development; and,
- d) Develop country-specific advocacy interventions to enhance sustainable families for sustainable population growth in Togo to be executed immediately following the meeting.



Group photo of the participants at the consultation in Togo



2.3.6. *Diakonia*

Under this thematic area, the AACC's aim was to advocate for Diakonia as an imperative ministry to the Church to be inclusive, empowering and transformative. Interventions were planned in collaboration with the World Council of Churches (WCC) that focused on equipping churches in developing common understanding of Diakonia and practice of the ministry of Diakonia. Activities carried out were as follows:

- a) In 2019, three Human Resource and leadership development seminar for Diakonia and development (Benin, Kenya and Mozambique). Key lessons identified at these workshops 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.



Participants at the Human resource and leadership development seminar, Mozambique 2019



- b) In 2022 the International Handbook on Creation Care and Eco-Diakonia was published. The production of the international handbook was a joint initiative of AACC, CCA, UEM, REET and BfdW with contributions from 39 African scholars drawn from different countries, confessions and traditions. Hundred (copies) have been produced for circulation to contributors and institutions with AACC constituency and beyond. Copies of the book were also distributed to participants attending the 4th symposium on misleading theologies at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre.



Some of the participants at the 4th symposium receiving a copy of the international handbook

- c) In 2023, two capacity building workshops took place one for Anglophone region in Nairobi while the other was organized in Lomé was for the Francophone region. The purpose of the two workshops was to strengthen the capacity of the churches in human resource management, strategic planning, ethical leadership skills for effective and efficient prophetic roles in diakonia and development as critical component of the mission of the church.



Group photo of participants in the meeting in Nairobi – April 2023



d) Capacity Building for South Sudanese Women and Youth Urban Refugees

With funding from the Global Ministries USA, the AACC implemented a one-year capacity-building project in collaboration with the South Sudanese urban refugees' community in Kampala, Uganda, to improve the quality of their life, through vocational skills training. The training conducted from 25 Nov – 9 Dec 2021 in two Kampala suburbs of Namuwongo and Kajjansi, entailed entrepreneurship training for the South Sudanese women and youth, to mitigate the adverse effects of COVID-19. The training equipped and provided the refugees with practical skills to improve on their livelihoods and increase their daily incomes through income generating activities. The skills would also go a long way in helping them establish their own micro and small businesses, to help them cope with life back at home, when they finally return to South Sudan. 47 youth and women received skills in business management, marketing, recordkeeping, loan management, profit and loss calculation, communication and customer care.



A group picture taken at the end of one of the training sessions. AACC Ecumenical Accompanier, Bishop Emeritus Yona Katoneene, Centre in black



2.4. Advocacy at the African Union

AACC's advocacy work under this programmatic pillar was carried out through the AACC's Liaison Office to the African Union which serves as a conduit of the voice of the AACC and its constituency towards the African Union Commission (AUC), its organs, and the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa. AACC's work extends to AU organs and structures across the continent such as the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC), African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC), African Commission on Human and People's Rights, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and the Regional Economic blocks (RECs). It is involved in lobby and advocacy, calling for accountability on the implementation of Agenda 2063, and on commitments of the African governments to the standards and norms they set up for themselves, and African government's commitments to international standards especially those treaties they have ratified. The AACC speaks to the implementation thereof and amplifies the moral and prophetic voice of the church in addressing issues facing African citizens.

During 2019 – 2023, AACC's advocacy work through its Liaison Office at the African Union increased significantly thereby creating a positive image of the AACC at the African Union, its institutions and organs, within the AACC constituency and with other external stakeholders including among them, faith-based organizations and civil society. AACC's engagement with the African Union Commission and AU Member states, especially through the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa solidified. However, several gaps remain – such as getting the AU and its member states to get to early responses to instability, insecurity, and human rights violations bedeviling the continent.

2.4.1 Agenda 2063

- a) Trainings on Agenda 2063:** Agenda 2063 awareness trainings were carried out since the last AACC Assembly in Kigali, as stipulated in the 2019 – 2023 AACC strategic plan. These were both standalone trainings and awareness sessions on agenda 2063 embedded in other program work of the AACC. Besides slow progress in the implementation of the “First Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2014 – 2023”, agenda 2063 remains Africa's long term socio-economic and integrative transformation blue print.





Participants to the AACC Consultative Agenda 2063 Training on November 18 and 19, 2020 at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre, West Lands, Nairobi, Kenya.

Quotable Quotes from this Training

“Faith communities have a strong hold on society and if this is recognized, and the energy harnessed, Africa can get on the road to transformation in the living standards of its citizens.”

~ Denise Kodhe Presiding Officer AU- ECOSOCC.

“Agenda 2063 upholds respect, care, health, and fairness of God’s love which are in the scriptures. In this case, scriptures become the basis to inform development for the good of God’s people to reinforce and shape the agenda. In their role as God’s agents, religious leaders must find ways in their roles to relate to agenda 2063”

~ Lydia Mwaniki Director of Gender AACC.



Collaboration with AUC ‘Silencing the Guns’ Online Initiative – #NamesNotNumbers Campaign

The AACC partnered with the African Union Commission (AUC) *Silencing the Guns Initiative campaign* #NamesNotNumbers on the lead up to the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of States and Governments of the African Union of 09 – 10 February 2020. This campaign “But They are Not Just Numbers” gave a spotlight on the impact of violent conflicts (especially armed conflicts

and sexual and gender based violence) in Africa by honouring those who have lost their lives in violent and armed conflicts by saying their names and their stories in a virtual memorial – (not only statistics). The event was on 29 January, and AACC led the virtual prayers. The event also called for Africa Peace Zones, extending beyond areas infested with violent conflict.

2.4.2 Advocacy Trainings

Training on Advocacy was held at sub-regional levels and at continental level. Topics covered included *Entry Points to Advocacy* and *The Role of Faith Based Actors in Advocacy*, *Reflections on the AACC Advocacy Approaches*, *Understanding the Theory of Change Approach to Advocacy*, *Sharing Practical Advocacy Methodologies Employed By AACC Members* at country level, their key targeted stakeholders for advocacy, their allies and partners including key calendars of events in which AACC members are involved with

at national, sub-regional, continental & internationally, *The Distinctiveness of Faith Based Actors*, *The AACC Secretariat and its Members Advocacy Work* and *Theological Foundations for Advocacy*. The training also validated advocacy actors in the various AACC regions as had been provided by AACC constituency in their response to an advocacy mapping exercise which was conducted by the AACC in 2019. The mapping covered thematic areas in which AACC members are engaged at national, sub-regional, continental & internationally.

A cross section of participants to the AACC Southern Africa Regional Advocacy Framework Workshop in Johannesburg, in September 2019. The workshop was hosted by the South African Council of Churches. The Keynote Speaker was Dr Vasu Gounden the founder and director of the African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) who lamented that at times the voice of the church is not loud enough on critical issues that matter for citizens, but also appreciated the powerful voice of the church whenever it stood up.





A group photograph of participants to the AACC Central & West Africa Regions Advocacy Framework Workshop in Lome, Togo, in October 2019. The workshop was hosted by the AACC Regional Office in Lome, Togo. At this workshop, AACC President Rt Rev Temple facilitated a session on Biblical foundations for Advocacy where he concluded by saying “God the creator calls us to participate with Him in the work of continuous creation for the renewal of the world. As such in our call on advocacy, we should unite our voices as we speak to political leaders, letting them know not what they want to hear, but what God is telling them. The church must help the political leaders to see and interpret the handwriting on the wall”.

The Late Rev. Hon. Justice Augustino Ramadhani (28 December 1945 – 28 April 2020) a former Chief Justice of Tanzania (2007 to 2010), and a Judge of the African Court on Human People’s Rights (2010 to 2016) giving a keynote address at the AACC Advocacy Framework workshop in Arusha Tanzania in November 2019. He is also a former roster member on the AACC Ecumenical Program for Peace in Africa (EPEPPA). In his Keynote address he said Martin Luther King Jr.’s words “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends”, sums up advocacy. It is standing up in the sight of oppression. It is giving a voice to the voiceless. Sometimes advocacy is rightly accused of putting ideas into other peoples’ heads. Again he said “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” [Martin Luther King Jr.]



Bishop John RUCYAHANA of the Shyria Diocese and Chairperson of the National Unity & Reconciliation Committee in Rwanda gave the keynote address at the Continental Advocacy Framework Workshop at the AACC Desmond Tutu Conference Centre held in December 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya. He emphasized the importance of education for life. He highlighted the urgent need for the preparation of Africans for their role in setting and keeping strategies to revive African identity and unity for development. “Dignity of Africans, rights and development cannot be donated or bought in any store, Africans have to earn it themselves... the ultimate purpose of religious leaders in Africa and in advocacy is to pave ways that will enable African societies to live in peace, harmony, and support of each other, not just merely exist”, he said.



Human Rights Advocacy Training : The AACC organized an introductory capacity building workshop from 24th -28th April 2023 for its members on the guidelines for shadow reporting under the African Charter for Human and Peoples Rights. The workshop was to equip AACC members to pursue evidence- based advocacy as well as the use of data to encourage informed dialogue on human rights issues in the continent. Additionally, it will also ensure that at the impact level, AACC’s coordinated lobby and advocacy work will contribute to aspirations 3 and 4 of the African Union’s Agenda 2063



A cross-section of participants from AACC members working on Human Rights to an AACC “Capacity Building Workshop on Human Rights & the Role of Churches under the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights held in Addis Ababa on 24 to 28 April, 2023. The training covered concepts of human rights, classification of human rights, an analysis of the context of human rights in Africa, the theology of human rights, cases of how AACC members are engaging on human rights issues at national, regional and global levels, introduction to existing international, regional and national human rights mechanisms, thematic reporting under the African Charter on Human and People’s rights & an introduction to the Universal Period Review under the UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights. This training was implemented under the “Enhancing capacities of the AACC to heighten its advocacy Role for Human Dignity & Justice in the continent”

Advisory Group on Advocacy: An advisory group on advocacy was formed to support the AACC advocacy work with thought leadership. The Group comprised of AACC General Committee members, and technical experts on advocacy. They were: Rev. Arnold C. Temple (AACC President) & Bishop Emeritus, Methodist Church Sierra Leone, Rt Rev Dr. Jeremiah Ngumo (AACC General Committee Member), Rev. Fay Van Eeden (AACC General Committee Member), Mr. Amos Adjei (AACC General Committee Member-Youth), Mr. Simbarashe Hunzvi (AACC General Committee Member-Youth), Ms. Lettie Tembo Longwe (Interim Director, Africa Peace and Security Programme/Tana Forum Secretariat Head at the Institute of Peace & Security Studies), Ms. Gloria kabage (Political Affairs, Peace and Security department at the African Union Commission), Mr. Ousuman Touray (PLO Lumumba Foundation-Youth). Key among their achievements have been the crafting of the AACC policy on advocacy, and helping with discernment and guidance on the AACC Human Rights Award under the AACC project “Enhancing capacities of the AACC to heighten its advocacy for Human Dignity & Justice in the continent”. The advisory group have also taken crucial advocacy missions on behalf of the AACC.



AACC Advisory Group on Advocacy members with AACC Addis Ababa staff during one of their meetings in Addis Ababa, in 2023. Also in the photo (with the white top) is Ms. Hazel Maureen Danetta Dixon of the African Union Commission of the African Union Commission Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AUC-CIDO), who had been invited to give an update on the AU Interfaith Dialogue Forum. Work of the Advisory group has been supported through the “Enhancing capacities of the AACC to o heighten its advocacy Role for Human Dignity & Justice in the continent” project

AACC Advisory Group Members with AACC staff on an explorative visit for cooperation to the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, in July 2023.



The AACC Advisory Group on advocacy with Ambassador Salah, Head of the African Governance Architecture – African Peace & Security Architecture (AGA-APSA) at the African Union at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa. Date: 7 March, 2021. Ambassador Salah had been invited to share on opportunities for engaging the AACC in its work.



2.4.3. AACC relationship with the African Union Commission (AUC), Advocacy Towards the AUC Leadership and its related organs.



The AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki had fruitful engagements with the African Union Commission Deputy Chairperson Her Excellency Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa at the AUC Headquarters. In this meeting, the AACC General Secretary was accompanied by Gorden Simango, the AACC Director for the African Union Office & Advocacy. Date: 21 May 2021, in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

This engagement was facilitated with support from the “Transforming lives in the Horn of Africa through Evidence based Advocacy and Campaigning for Peaceful Change” project

- Engaging the AU Peace and Security Structures

AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, with a delegation of AACC Eminent Persons Ecumenical Programme for Peace in Africa (EPEPPA) to the African Union Commission (AUC) Political Affairs Peace and Security (PAPS) department, in Addis Ababa - Ethiopia. Here the delegation met the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security H.E. Ambassador Bankole to present the churches concerns regarding the state of peace and security in Africa. Members of this delegation from right to left are: Sheikh Ramadhan Aula – Director at the CSCR/BRAVE Secretariat, an intra-faith movement to encourage Muslims to collectively voice their disagreement with violent extremist activities; 2nd from the right is AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, 3rd is the Most Reverend Archbishop Emeritus Martin Blaise Nyaboho the AACC Vice President for the Central Africa region, 4th is the late & former Moderator of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches Dr. Agnes Aboum, 5th is Rev. Dr. Suzanne Matala - Ordained Minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) in Zambia, and Member of the Independent Commission on the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT), and lastly is Gorden Simango, Director at the AACC Liaison to the African Union & Advocacy. This engagement was facilitated with support from the “Transforming lives in the Horn of Africa through Evidence based Advocacy and Campaigning for Peaceful Change” project.





Above: H.E. Ambassador Bankole, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security at the African Union with the AACC Eminent persons during their visit to his office. The photo includes two of Ambassadors Bankole's staff (one on the far right, and the other on the far left). Date: 17 September, 2021



Ambassador Salah on a panel with the AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fido Mwombeki speaking to the audience at the launch of the AACC "Project AF-AFK-2021-0366 – Enhancing capacities of the AACC to heighten its advocacy role for Human Dignity & Justice on the African Continent".

- **African Commission for Human & People's Rights (ACHPR):** Between 2019 & 2023, for its advocacy/influencing work, the AACC set to reach out to other organs of the African Union other than those based in Addis Ababa to explore cooperation, and possible ways of **coupling** the voice of AACC secretariat and its members for influencing.



The AACC staff members with the then Acting Executive Secretary to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), in November 2022 during the 73rd Session of the Commission at the ACHPR secretariat in Banjul, the Gambia. It was at this meeting that the AACC was encouraged to apply for observer status in the ACHPR given its clout on the African continent, and the crucial role it can play in promoting the protection of Human Rights on the African continent. Engagements with the ACHPR are facilitated through the “Enhancing capacities of the AACC to o heighten its advocacy Role for Human Dignity & Justice in the continent”

- **African Peer Review Mechanism, AU ECOSOCC, and the EU delegation.**

Cooperation with AU ECOSOCC, and the EU has significantly increased. For the work with the AU, some of the AACC partners in Europe have facilitated for AACC voices to be heard in the EU especially before and during the African Union – European Union summit of 17 – 18 February 2022. Notably, the engagements were facilitated through Bread for the World, VENRO & the ACT Alliance Brussels office. The AACC contributed immensely to issues that were in the final statement of the civil society to the summit, especially those issues related to migration and trafficking in persons, peace and security, and climate change. Exploration of work with the African Peer Review Mechanism is still in its infant stages.

- **Cooperation with AU ECOSOCC**

In 2022 and 2023, AACC was a co-organizer of the AU ECOSOCC annual citizen’s forum.



Media banner for the 2023 ECOSOCC annual citizens forum, which took place in July 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of the forum was “Democracy & Digital Governance”. The session was in the lead up to the African Union Heads of States and Government mid-year review meeting which took place in Nairobi, Kenya two days after the citizens forum. Engagements with the AU ECOSOCC annual citizens forum are facilitated through the “Enhancing capacities of the AACC to heighten its advocacy Role for Human Dignity & Justice in the continent” project. In the banner above is AACC staff members, Rev. Charles Berahino the Executive Secretary for Peace and Diakonia, and Mahlet Abreham the Programme Executive for the Horn of Africa Peace Project who represented the AACC at the 2023 Citizens Forum.



Rev. Prof. Edwin Zulu, AACC Vice President for the Southern Africa region speaking at the AU citizens forum in Lusaka, Zambia in July 2022. His presentation was on the “Role of Faith-Based Organizations in monitoring elections and preventing Unconstitutional Change of Government in Africa”. The focus of the 2022 citizens’ forum was the unconstitutional change of governments. Of the eight key recommendations from the Citizens forum one which was specific to AACC & KAICIID was “Revive & facilitate the annual interfaith dialogues and mediation processes on conflict prevention among others through the KAICIID Dialogue Centre and the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC – CETA)”.



In the picture above, and at the same event, Prof Zulu is pictured with (from right to left) Rev. Canon Emmanuel Chikoya, General Secretary of the Council of Churches in Zambia (far right), 2nd from the right is Justice Oman the AACC Programme Executive for Research, Governance & Human Rights, 3rd from the right is Caroline Obure then APRM, AU ECOSOCC communications consultant, 4th from the right is Rev. Prof. Edwin Zulu, 5th from the right is Evelyn Chirwa of the Council of Churches in Zambia, & lastly Moses Jawara from an AACC member in Sierra Leone 6th from the right& 1st from the left.

- **Exploring Partnership with COMESA Secretariat**



In September 2021, the AACC General Secretary met the COMESA Secretary-General, H.E. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe at the COMESA secretariat in Lusaka on the sidelines of the AACC consultation on "Public Debt, Corruption & Illicit financial flows in Africa", which was hosted by the Council of Churches in Zambia. Their meeting explored areas of cooperation in how both institutions can engage each other on economic justice issues and to have pro-policies, and pro-poor policies.



- **Working with Regional Economic Communities (IGAD & EAC)**

Maiden engagements with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East Africa Community (EAC) took place in the past three years. This has opened doors for cooperation in the years ahead. AACC together with the AU-Interfaith Dialogue Forum, and the United Religions Initiative (URI) paid a courtesy advocacy visit to Djibouti to foster relations and collaboration with IGAD. They also visited EAC Secretariat in Arusha and Dar es Salaam to engage with the EAC and interfaith institutions in areas of peace and security. The delegation to the East Africa Community was part led by the AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki. In Tanzania the group

met with the Secretary General of at the EAC Secretariat, Speaker of the East Africa Legislative Assembly, EAC Peace and Security Division, Interreligious Council of Peace Tanzania, Regional Commissioner of Arusha and African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministry. In Tanzania they discussed peace and security, elections, threats to climate change, interfaith and intercultural harmony and regional integration through Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In Djibouti meetings were held with the IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. These missions have been made possible through the “Transforming lives in the Horn of Africa through Evidence based Advocacy and Campaigning for Peaceful Change” project.



AACC, URI and AU IFDF delegates during a meeting with H.E Dr. Peter Mathuki (center), The Secretary General of EAC in his Office, in Arusha, Tanzania. Date: November 2021



AACC, URI and AU IFDF delegates with Ambassador Kamel Abdallah, the Dean of Diplomatic Corp at the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Djibouti. The team introduced the work of the AU-IFDF and AACC Horn of Africa Peace project to the Diplomatic Corps. For his part Ambassador Kamel expressed willingness to work with the interfaith group and urged to be involved in different engagements. Date: 02 November, 2021



AACC, URI and AU IFDF delegates group photo with the team from the IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, in Djibouti. Date: 4 November, 2021



AACC, URI and AU IFDF delegates with Ambassador Guelleh Idriss at the Djibouti Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Ambassador Guelleh, is/was the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Director of Multilateral Relations in Djibouti. The meeting briefed the Ambassador about the work of the Horn of Africa Peace Project and the important role Djibouti could play in the peace and stability of the region. The Ambassador expressed willingness to collaborate with the faith forum and advance its goals in the region especially through the annual AU Heads of States Summit.



AACC, URI and AU IFDF delegates at office of the Ombudsman of Djibouti. The delegation met with the National Mediator commonly known as the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is entrusted by the State of Djibouti to resolve critical grievances among the people and institutions in the country. The team and the Mediator discussed a number of issues and common areas of interest. The Ombudsman's office briefed the team about the important role and work of his office to the country. The team also shared the work of the AACC Horn of Africa Peace Project and AU-IFDF for future collaboration. The two bodies identified areas of collaboration, especially in resolving conflicts in the region. One of the outcomes of the meeting was a webinar on 28th January 2022 which featured the AACC youth and the Ombudsman. The webinar was entitled "African Indigenous Conflict Resolution Strategy – Conversations with the Ombudsman".



• Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa:

The Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa is an annual meeting that brings together African leaders and stakeholders to engage and explore African-led security solutions. The Forum complements formal meetings of African heads of state and government by assembling them in an informal, collaborative environment. The Forum offers room and space for panel discussions, interaction with the floor and bilateral talks to share views and experiences in a time efficient, result-oriented and open manner. In June 2020, the AACC and the Institute of Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) which is housed at Addis Ababa University signed an MoU to jointly develop strategies and approaches to peace and security issues and human dignity, seeking to offer policy and practical recommendations to duty bearers. It is in this vein that the AACC engagement at the Tana Forum is facilitated each year.



The General Secretary of the AACC, Rev. Dr. Mwombeki on the Panel Discussion for Side Event 1 on “Rebuilding After COVID-19: Lessons for Effective Governance and Sustainable Peace and Development in Africa” at the 2020 Tana Forum. Other panelists were: Professor Eddy Maloka, CEO, AU African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); Dr Raji Tajudeen, Head, Division of Public Health Institutes and Research, Africa CDC – Centre for Disease Control; Dr. Gilles Yabi, Founder, WATHI Citizen Think Tank, Senegal; and H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary, IGAD – Intergovernmental Authority on Development. The session was moderated by H.E. Abdirahman Yusuf Ali Aynte, Former Minister of Planning and Cooperation, Somalia. In his submission, the AACC

General Secretary called on the African governments to implement AU treaties they have ratified, and speed up agenda 2063 commitments on visa free travel by 2018, and Silencing the Guns by 2020, the AU Free movement of persons protocol etc. He also highlighted the importance of debt cancellation to enable African countries to have sufficient resources needed to survive the economic and social winter post-COVID-19. He also called on African government to address endemic corruption. Rev. Dr. Mwombeki also highlighted the ingenuity that Africa has shown in producing personal protective equipment (PPEs), and the potential there is for Africa to even produce appropriate ventilators. He was worried about the use of excessive force and violations of fundamental human rights by certain governments under the pretext of COVID – 19 containment measures.



- **Agenda 2063, Aspiration 3 “An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law**

Democracy: On November 18 and 19, 2022 two youths from the All Africa Conference of Churches participated in the AU 11th continental consultation on “The Roles and Perspectives of Young People in Reversing Unconstitutional Changes of Government.” This was upon invitation from the African Union Commission Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) as the rapporteur of the African Governance Architecture Platform. The Continental Youth Consultation was intended to provide a collaborative, open space, and inclusive space to foster meaningful participation of young people in policy deliberations as part of the African Union’s efforts to provide lasting solutions for the resurgence of Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCGs) in Africa.



AACC youths, Emmanuel Maga Yayoune from Togo – 1st on the left, and Ayantu Taye Abdissa of Mekane Yesus, Ethiopia (second from the right with brown jacket), at the AU 11th consultation in Benin



Democracy: In 2022 the AACC commissioned research on the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Election and Governance (ACDEG) in 10 African countries namely, Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Somalia, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. The research was validated at a workshop on 7 – 8 March, 2023. The resulting policy brief has been shared with the African Union, some AU member states and some electoral management bodies of countries that were covered by the research. A validation meeting was held with the objective to discuss the research findings and to create an avenue for experts, other stakeholders in democracy, election management and governance in Africa. The meeting sought to engage and identify ways of enhancing the implementation of the ACDEG as an instrument for the promotion of democracy in Africa. Participants deeply engaged and discussed the research findings with interest. It is worth noting that the workshop created an opportunity to deeply analyze and master the content of the ACDEG. The discussions were based on cases from different countries represented in the workshop. It was noted that the current level of support by the ACDEG is a positive sign that African states are committed to working towards achieving good governance, human rights and the rule of law. However, it was also noted that the different components of the ACDEG are not fully implemented by the signatories. Participants recommended creation of awareness about the ACDEG within countries so that citizens become aware of it. Once equipped, churches also have a big role in this and would also hold the countries accountable. Participants gave their inputs on the draft policy brief. Once finalized, it will be a great tool for advocacy in areas of Democracy, Elections and Governance in Africa.



Group photo during the validation workshop, Addis-March 7, 2023



- Agenda 2063, Aspiration 4 “A Peaceful and Secure Africa”
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Systems

The poster features a teal background with a white map of Africa in the top right corner. The title "AFRICAN INDIGENOUS CONFLICT RESOLUTION STRATEGIES" is written in large, bold, white letters. Below the title, the date and time "February 28th 2021 10 AM EAT" are displayed. A central photograph shows H.E. Moumin Ahmed Cheik, the Ombudsman of the Republic of Djibouti, wearing glasses and a white shirt. To the left of the photo, his name and title are listed. Below the photo, the text "Speech by: Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, AACC General Secretary" is shown. At the bottom left, there is a "LEARN MORE" button and the website "www.aacc-ceta.org". At the bottom right, there are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

AFRICAN INDIGENOUS CONFLICT RESOLUTION STRATEGIES

February 28th 2021 10 AM EAT

Key Note Speaker
H.E Moumin Ahmed Cheik
Ombudsman of the
Republic of Djibouti

*Speech by: Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki,
AACC General Secretary*

LEARN MORE
www.aacc-ceta.org

In February 2021, the youth in the Horn of Africa Region engaged with the Ombudsman of the Republic of Djibouti to learn about non-adversarial methods of conflict resolution by getting to know more about the role of the Ombudsman using Djibouti as an example.



- **Anti-Hate Speech Policy Brief:**

A Hate Speech research covering Sudan, South Sudan and Kenya was completed in the month of September 2022. A validation workshop for the research and a policy brief was held on 26 – 29 September 2022 in Nairobi Kenya. The outcome of the dialogue is a validated research document which led to the development of Anti-Hate speech policy brief. The policy brief has been used for engaging AU Interfaith Dialogue Forum, the AU Political Affairs, Peace & Security (PAPS) department at the African Union, the Secretariat of Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), civil society and other faith-based organization. The policy brief was also presented at the “Occasion of celebration of the United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week” which was held at the African Union Headquarters Nelson Mandela Plenary Hall on February 28, 2023 under the patronage of H. E. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.





- **Untold Stories/Journey Podcasts** – In a quest to document the voices of church leaders, (both lay and clergy) who have played pivotal roles in bringing peace to the Horn of Africa region, the AACC through the “Transforming lives in the Horn of Africa through Evidence-based Advocacy and Campaigning for Peaceful Change” project documented a few of the life-changing stories demonstrating the impact faith leaders have had in accompanying the peace processes in the Horn of Africa. Below are media banners of the four podcast episodes featuring four eminent persons.



- **AACC Eminent Persons visit to Uganda on the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons.**

A delegation of three (3) Eminent persons namely Bishop Dr. Manasseh Gahima from Rwanda, Bishop Dr. Emily Onyango from Kenya, and Moderator Rev. Thomas Tut from South Sudan, accompanied by three AACC staff travelled to Kampala on June 18 and then to Northern Uganda on June 19 to visit the refugee camps, to see and experience the plight of refugees, commemorate the 2023 UN World Refugee Day there under the theme “Home Away from Home”, and get to engage with various stakeholders including UNHCR, and other NGOs working in the refugee camps, and



also engage with offices of the responsible government ministry. The delegation was hosted by an AACC member, the Church of Uganda. On the last working day of the visit, the delegation met with *Hon. Esther Anyakun Davinia*, Uganda Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, in Kampala.



Exit meeting with Hon. Esther Anyakun Davinia Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees (in brown dress & green jacket), Uganda, in Kampala. Grateful to the Church of Uganda for making this possible.

- **Faith leaders' delegations to Ethiopia:**

Unity of the Church in Ethiopia: The AACC through the General Secretary's office has been accompanying peace processes in Ethiopia & the quest by the Orthodox Church, Mekane Yesus & the Catholic Church to form a Council of Churches in Ethiopia, and a joint relief/humanitarian response program.

The AACC General Secretary meeting with the Ethiopia Church leadership in Ethiopia in the year 2020. Supporting the aspirations of the churches in Ethiopia to establish a council of churches, the AACC offered office space at its Liaison Office to the African Union for a year – during the formation stages of the Council.





- AACC Executive Committee Mission to Ethiopia**

In November, 2022 the AACC Executive Committee paid a pastoral visit to Ethiopia to meet with the leadership of the two AACC member churches there. This was in response to the instability in the country including a then protracted internal armed conflict in the Tigray region.



AACC Executive Committee members meeting with the leadership of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church MekaneYesus (EECMY), and the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church in Addis Ababa in November 2022



2.4.4. CSOs & FBOs Coordination Meetings & Engagements in Addis Ababa

The AACC Liaison Office has been one of the meeting/convening points for CSOs and FBOs whose work face the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa. AACC convened the first meetings of the CSOs in 2021 at the Continental Hotel in Addis Ababa, and has been co-hosting meetings with the FBOs with Liaison Offices to the African Union in Addis Ababa. To date FBOs engaged have been the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM), the United Religions Initiative (URI), the Baha'i International Community Addis Ababa Office (BIC AAO), and the AACC itself. At times the meetings are also attended by the Government Relations, Public and International Affairs, and African Union office of the Latter-day Saints Charities.



Participants to the maiden one and a half days meeting of CSOs facing the African Union called for and hosted by the All Africa Conference of Churches Liaison Office to the African Union. The meeting met under the theme “Being purposeful in engaging the African Union Peace and Security Council: Reflecting and learning together”. Participants were from World Vision Ethiopia Country Office, and the focal person for liaising with the African Union, Community Empowerment for Progress Organisation (CEPO) from South Sudan, International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation to the African Union and International Organisations in Africa in Addis Ababa, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung EES African Union Cooperation in Addis Ababa, and Amnesty International Africa Regional Advocacy office in Nairobi. Date: 14 November, 2019



2.4.4.1. Engagements with the Diplomatic Community



A photo session with H.E. Ambassador Peter Doyle (first to the left with a blue tie) the Ambassador of Australia to Ethiopia, the African Union, CAR and Djibouti and his staff on 3 March 2020, at the Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa, after a catch-up meeting on the work of the AACC on the African continent.





2.5. Activities implemented by the AACC Regional Office in Lome, Togo.

2.5.1. Migration and Trafficking in Persons

The AACC through its project on enhancing capacities of the AACC to heighten its advocacy role for Human Dignity & Justice in the continent heightened its advocacy work on migration and trafficking in persons with the aim of minimizing the phenomenon of irregular migration and trafficking in persons. The following activities were carried out:

a) Consultative and capacity building workshops for faith actors on migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery.

• From 5th – 7th July 2022, Regional Consultation for West and Central Africa

Having noticed that West Africa compared to other regions was a rather accessible/organized migration route for migrants destined to Europe, with flourishing networks and business for traffickers and smugglers, AACC is working alongside the member churches in the West and Central African sub-region to address the root causes of irregular migration and modern slavery. In the face of such deplorable situation, corruption and lack of systematic cooperation and coordination among nations in the region has made it difficult and almost impossible for the various countries in the region to dismantle the phenomenon. In view of this, the AACC brought together 40 people, men and women from member churches, CSOs, Government, ECOWAS and AU organs working on issues affecting migration in a consultation to reflect on possible solution that could help brake, reduce and prevent the phenomenon. In the end it come out clearly that, the church still has a long way to go to ensure the wellbeing of our people. And for that, there is more need for collaborative actions between the church, civil society, the states and the Africa Union for an integrated, peaceful and developed Africa where people's dignity is highly respected.



Group Photo of Participants at the West and Central Africa Consultation on Migration, Trafficking in Persons, And Modern Slavery. Togo July 2022



- **From 30th May – 1st June 2023, Regional Consultation for East and the Horn of Africa**

AACC organized the second regional consultation on migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery in Kampala, Uganda. The consultation brought together, AACC member churches in the region, expert CSOs, FBOs and the diaspora on matter of migrations, to discuss and find lasting solution to the phenomenon. The consultation was held in Kampala Uganda, and the government of the Republic of Uganda was invited to be part of the discussion through the ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development. This was so because Uganda is known to have bilateral labour agreements with Middle East & Gulf countries; and it has unfortunately been noticed that in most cases, the terms and condition of the agreement are not respected. As a result, migrants’ rights are violated and they suffer abuses, sometimes leading to death.



Group photo of the Kampala consultation

- b) Creation of a messaging platform run by the youth on issues of Migration, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.**

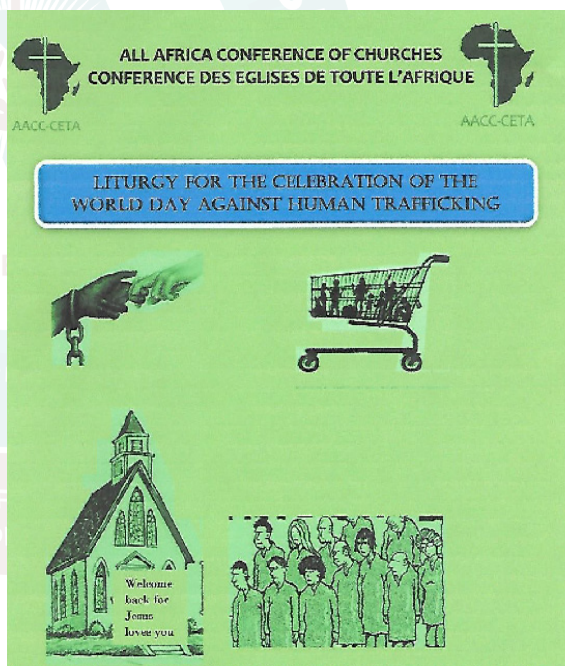
This platform has been active in engaging young people through social media as well as in series of webinars on various themes in relation to migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery. Run by the youth, it is active in promoting the AACC campaign on youth and African patriotism under the theme “Africa My Home, My Future.” Several webinars have been held that have each registered over 100 young people from across the continent, aimed at engaging selected young people in the West and Central African sub-region to heighten their capacity in advocacy and create an online platform for the sharing of messages on issues relating to migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery. In addition, the online platform will enhance the communication and advocacy efforts of young people in the sub region in migration related activities.



Some of the theme and posters created for the webinars.

c) Development of liturgical materials

IEC materials were developed in our efforts to spread the information on the dangers and consequences of irregular migration and human trafficking. Different information, education and communication materials have been produced and are being distributed among the targets of the campaign – member churches in West and Central Africa. The AACC has designed sensitization programs targeted at Member Churches and aimed at encouraging the churches to include migration and human trafficking in the church agenda as part of its diaconal ministry and working on psychosocial support elements for survivors.



Cover page of the liturgy book on migration



d) Step Down Capacity Building Workshops for Faith Actors



A group photo of the participants to the Nigeria West workshop

For more impact on the ground among member churches, the AACC through the Lome Regional Office organized a step-down capacity building workshop on irregular migration. The workshop looked specifically at the causes, the

consequences and the importance of psychosocial support to survivors. The workshops were conducted in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo. The objective of the consultation was to heighten the capacity of AACC members in those countries in their advocacy efforts and collaborate with civil society and other relevant stakeholders on migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery. It was also to create a platform for effective engagements for CSO's and FBO's to enhance their communication and advocacy efforts in migration related activities

e) Side event on migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery

During the All Africa Youth Congress, a side event on Migration, Trafficking in Persons and Modern Slavery was organized to engage young people at the Congress. The objective of the event was to involve young people in addressing the pull and push factors of irregular migration and modern slavery. The youth continue to be the most affected with most embarking on dangerous adventures in search of greener pastures. The event was also a platform for survivors of human trafficking to share their experiences on the dangers of embarking on such adventures. A platform of young people to engage in advocacy on irregular migration in the African continent was created.



A group photo of the participants to the Nigeria West workshop





f) **Work with European ecumenical institutions to address the challenge of Africa-Europe migration:**



The AACC in collaboration with the Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) organized an Africa Europe Ecumenical Forum on migration. The objective of the forum was to counter Irregular Migration, Modern Slavery and Trafficking in Persons with FBOs and partners based in Europe focusing on addressing existing gaps in policy implementation and practices. Both African Union and European Union have certainly come up with policies that are to regulate migration for it to be done safely and to ensure that those who have already fallen into irregular migration and its various tentacles are treated as human

beings in the respect of their God-given dignity.

During the discussions, a connection was established between migration and theology, emphasizing that migration is part of the biblical narrative and is linked to us all. Churches, governments and civil society organizations must therefore combine their efforts to eradicate this scourge and have a migration policy that benefits everyone. Participants also had an opportunity to visit some projects where they engaged with Africans in the diaspora and learnt of the different challenges that migrants face in Europe and Africa so as to shape interventions by churches. Issues identified in Europe included the adjustment of methods by the traffickers, the increased vulnerability of migrants, especially unregistered ones and women, the increased exposure of children to online predators, etc. At the end of the activity, a communiqué with recommendations to prioritized stakeholders in both Africa and Europe was produced. An Africa Europe regional group was formed to continue the reflection.



Participants in session



2.5.2. Engaging religious leaders to advocate for ending and preventing violence against women

Country programs on GBV were conducted in Cote d'Ivoire, Benin and Togo to address GBV to address the phenomenon which made a drastic turn back during the time of COVID-19. The discussions sought to establish why there was such a vigorous turnback after so much progress was made in the fight against the phenomenon. The AACC through the Lomé Regional Office invited government officials, religious leaders (both Christians, Muslims and Africa traditionalist), FBOs, CSOs, chiefs and community mobilizers for a three-day consultation. In each country, it was observed that the loophole was due to the fact that everyone was doing the fight at his own level, whereas it was supposed to be a joint effort so as to have positive but lasting results.



A group photo of the Togo consultation



3. Organizational Pillars

3.1. Governance, Membership Development and Networking

The General Secretary's office provided leadership and ensured that work done by the organization was consistent with the vision and mission of the AACC as well as in line with the AACC's 2019-2023 strategy. The office of the General Secretary ensured that governance structures were coordinated to formulate policies and oversee the work of the secretariat. The office of the General Secretary strengthened the working relationship with other stakeholders working in areas of mutual interest. It also responded to invitations from its membership to accompany them on their various special events and in times of difficulties. Under this thematic area, the secretariat ensured that all governing bodies effectively performed their governance functions (General Committee, Board of Trustees and other committees) and meetings were held regularly and physically, and where physical meetings were not viable, virtual meetings were done. Orientation and training was given to members of governance that enabled them perform their roles adequately. The following activities were carried out:

3.1.1. Governance Meetings:

- a) **The General Committee Meetings (GC):** The AACC General Committee held its meetings as scheduled during the period under review. The GC approved the AACC Strategy 2019-2023, on whose basis the secretariat was able to do the work and report on the achievements outlined in this report in the continent and beyond. The GC has overseen the work through the various reporting structures as outlined in the AACC's constitution. Three in persons meetings were held in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2018, November 2021 and May 2023 respectively and other sessions were held virtually. The meeting in 2018 approved the AACC's 2019-2023 Strategy whereas the meeting in 2021 approved the venue and month for the AACC 12th General Assembly. The GC is also responsible for overseeing the preparations of the next AACC's General Assembly, and at its 2021 meeting, the GC received from the AACC General Secretary the concept note for the said assembly and an interim progress report from the Nigeria Local Organizing Committee (LOC). The GC approved November 2023 as the month for the AACC 12th General Assembly in Abuja, Nigeria and appointed from amongst its members a 10-persons team to serve as the Assembly Planning Committee that will work with the AACC Secretariat and the Local Organizing Committee in Nigeria to plan the assembly.



Participants at the General Committee in November 2021

The GC meeting in 2023 received the report from the General Secretary Rev Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, which included a review of the organization’s overall progress and the implementation of the AACC 2019 -2023 Strategy as well as reports from the Board of Trustees and the Finance and Personnel Committee. The GC also received the report from the Constitutional Review Adhoc Committee which tabled the revised draft of the AACC Constitution. The GC deliberated on the draft and adopted the recommended changes. Additionally, this meeting received the report from the of the 12th General Assembly’s Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and reviewed plans leading to the 12th General Assembly scheduled for 18th November 2023 to 23rd November 2023, in Abuja, Nigeria. While updating the general committee on the ongoing work of preparing for the 12th General Assembly, H.E. the Most Rev. Dr. Israel Akanji; Chairperson LOC in Nigeria, noted that the churches in Nigeria were getting ready to receive the assembly delegates and participants. Further, the GC also received and discussed the proposed 2023 – 2028 strategy for the AACC which was adopted. At this meeting three member churches were admitted. At the conclusion of the meeting, Members of the General Committee concerned by the political, economic, social and environmental situations prevailing in the continent formulated four (4) statements on Ethiopia, Sudan, effect of climate change in Africa and the current political and economic situation in the continent.



A section of participants at the 2023 GC Meeting in Nairobi following the Proceedings

b) Executive Committee



Participants at the Executive committee meeting in November 2022 in Addis Ababa , Ethiopia



Participants at the Executive committee meeting in May 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya at Desmond Tutu Conference Centre (DTCC)

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Executive Committee met as mandated by the constitution. Meetings were held as planned during the period under review. These meetings took place in person in Nairobi and in Addis Ababa and several others were held virtually. Convening these meetings was imperative as some issues which needed to be decided on between schedule of meetings and as per standing orders, the Executive Committee reached a decision through a mail vote.

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- c) **The Board of Trustees:** Met and executed their duties as stipulated in the constitution and reported to the GC. One of the decisions the AACC made was to ensure there was continuous interaction and information.
- d) **Finance and Personnel Committee:** Met as scheduled and presented their reports as per the reporting structures stipulated in the constitution.
- e) **The Assembly Planning Committee (APC):** Was formed by the General Committee in November, 2021. It has held its meetings as scheduled, worked with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and contributed to the success of hosting the 12th GA. From 12th to 15th September 2023, the AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki led a delegation to Abuja, Nigeria for the final preparatory meetings before the Assembly. The delegation was received by the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Archbishop Daniel Okoh who revealed that CAN is very supportive of the AACC's 12th General Assembly. The delegation received updates from the LOC through its Chairperson, H.E. Rev Dr. Akinji who briefed the delegation on the progress made towards the preparations for the assembly.



From left to right - Most Rev. Israel Akanji – Chairperson LOC, Archbishop Daniel Okoh – President of CAN , Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki – AACC General Secretary, Ms. Evelyne Okunda - the Executive Officer in the AACC's General Secretary's office, and Rt. Rev. Ini Ukpuho – a member of the AACC General Committee.

- f) **Constitutional Review Adhoc Committee (CRC):** This was the setup that spearheaded the review of the constitution. The CRC worked tirelessly and finalized the revised draft of the AACC Constitution which was tabled at the General Committee meeting in May 2023. The General Committee approved the revised draft which will be tabled at the 12th General Assembly for adoption.



3.1.2. Membership Development and Partnerships

The office of the General Secretary (GS) is responsible for leadership and coordination and it continued to steer the organization forward during the period under review. AACC members increased from **193** in **2018** to **210** in **2023** with an estimated membership of more than 200 million Christians in the African continent. The new members that joined the AACC during the period under review were: - Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, Eglise Luthérienne du Sénégal, The Church of the Lord (Prayer Fellowship) Togo, Communauté Evangélique Mennonite du Congo, Apostolic Pentecostal International, Friends World Committee for Consultations – Africa Section, Motailitu Church Cherubim & Seraphim Worldwide, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Eglise des Disciples du Christ au Congo, Eglise du Christ au Congo-Associate members, Christian Reformed Church, African Methodist Council, United Church of Christ in Nigeria, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian – Synod of Livingstonia, The Reformed Presbyterian Church in Africa – Uganda, Christ Ambassador Love Mission – Kenya and The African Church, Nigeria.

a) Engagements with AACC Members: The General Secretary increased AACC's presence and relevance in the members of AACC and visited many members during the period. The general secretary visited AACC member churches in different parts of the continent. The engagements ranged from courtesy visits to responding to different invitations sent by members to participate and engage in their activities. During this period the GS visited churches in Ethiopia, namely the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church (Mekane Yesus), Nigeria, Togo, Senegal, Cote D'Ivoire, Tanzania, etc. Throughout the said period, the GS continued to engage with existing members of AACC as well as brought in new members onboard. Further, upon invitation, the GS also attended different member churches annual general meetings and anniversary celebrations such as the 30th General Assembly and the 90th Anniversary of the Christian Council of Nigeria, the 60th Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

In the Northern Africa region of AACC, the General Secretary was invited by the Archbishop of the Episcopal Anglican Province of Alexandria, Egypt, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Anglican Province of Alexandria as shown in the photo below.



Participants during the 30th General Assembly and the 90th Anniversary of the Christian Council of Nigeria.



At this visit, the General Secretary had bilateral meetings with Dr. Sammy Shehata as well as with other Anglican bishops and archbishops who had been invited to the event and used the opportunity to share about AACC's work.



*Rev. Dr. Fidon
Mwombeki with
Archbishop Dr.
Sammy Shehata*



AACC General Secretary Rev Dr Fidon Mwombeki and the Tanzanian President, H.E Samia Suluhu joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania to celebrate the church's 60th anniversary.

b) Engagements with AACC Partners: - During the period under review, the General Secretary continuously engaged with AACC ecumenical partners and partners meeting were held annually. Sourcing for new partners and maintaining continuous communication and relations with the already existing partners was intensified. The General Secretary traveled extensively in Africa and beyond for purposes of engaging with AACC partners and prospective partners during the period under review. Countries visited included Germany, Norway, Sweden, Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, England, Kazakhstan, Bahrain, Nigeria, and Tanzania. New partners were brought on board thus increasing the funding for AACC programmatic work.



AACC General Secretary Rev Dr. Fidon Mwombeki attending the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions 2022 in Astana, Kazakhstan.



The General Secretary was invited to Bahrain where he attended the 1st Bahrain Dialogue Forum under the theme “*East and West for Human Coexistence*” from 3 - 6 November 2022. The forum was graced by many representatives of religions from different countries including Pope Francis who brought his message of dialogue with the Muslim world to the kingdom of Bahrain. This invitation was quite commendable as it demonstrated the openness of the Bahrain Kingdom to multireligious co-existence. The invitation was from the King of Bahrain, together with the Council of Muslim Elders based in Cairo. This was a two-day forum within Bahrain’s keenness to build bridges of dialogue among leaders of religions, sects, thought, cultures and media, in cooperation with Al Azhar, the Catholic Church, the Muslim Council of Elders, and other international institutions concerned with dialogue, human coexistence, and tolerance. This engagement provided opportunities to engage with other Faiths on peaceful existence that is imperative for AACC’s interfaith relations work . At this meeting the Rev. Dr. Fidon met with the World Council of Churches acting general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca.



Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki – AACC General Secretary with Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca – WCC General Secretary at the Bahrain Forum in November 2022.



The AACC also sought to explore partnership opportunities that went beyond monetary value, and entered into bilateral conversations with other likeminded organisations that sought collaboration and partnerships with the AACC. This led to the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) as well as Frameworks of Cooperation (FoC) with different organizations and institutions as follows: -

- i) **Renewal of the MoU with the African Union Commission (AUC):** This was renewed on 8th September, 2023. Ms. Betty Mupenda Wangozi, the Acting Director of the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO), signed for the African Union, whilst Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, AACC General Secretary, signed for the AACC. The Memorandum of Understanding went into effect on September 8th, 2023 and will be in effect for three years. This MoU establishes a framework for cooperation in order to promote closer collaboration and information exchange between the parties in a way that fosters synergistic relationships and partnerships in capacity building. The objectives of the MoU are: a) to develop and maintain a close and ongoing partnership between the AU and AACC designed to encourage the participation and contribution of the African faith-based community into Africa’s development; b) to collaborate to strengthen the capacity of African Union member state governments, institutions and agencies to better leverage the resources and potential of faith-based organizations for the benefit of Africa’s peace,



security and development; c) to support activities, to be further identified, which will help to strengthen the efficiency and impact of the African faith-based community’s engagement with the African Union and its member states, whether carried out jointly or by one party; and d) to consult and collaborate on emerging African contemporary issues that are of common interest in the context of faith and development.



- ii) **MOU with Compassion International Togo (CITG):** In efforts to expand our network and thematic areas of collaboration, the AACC signed an MoU with Compassion International Togo, which has common interest as the AACC in addressing some of the issues affecting the African continent .

The MoU which was signed by the heads of the two organizations on January 4th 2022, is a framework of collaboration on areas that have been identified which are mainly youth and adolescents, women and church leaders on various thematic areas. The framework of cooperation will provide guidance, collaboration processes as well as working relationship between the AACC and CITG. It will also facilitate mobilization and



Here seen the heads of the two organizations signing the agreement. Left Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, General Secretary of the AACC; Right Dr. Koffi Ahonon, National Director of CITG.

strengthening capacities of church leaders on the named thematic areas. Finally, the framework shall drive its mandate from the common values and principles from the two organizations' vision and mission mandates and focus on the common actions. As a result, CITG sponsored some youth and youth leaders to participate in the All Africa Youth Congress organized by the AACC in 2022 in Accra, Ghana. Further, it has strengthened collaborations and networking with other church leaders that are non-members of the AACC but are in partnership with CITG to participate in some of the AACC events at country level such as workshop on GBV, population growth, capacity building for church leaders, the widows' campaign and consultation on irregular migration, human trafficking and modern slavery. CITG is working closely with the Lome office to popularize the AU Agenda 2063 among CITG staff for better understanding and sensitization for proper implementation as a CSO working with church leaders at community level for better coverage of the religious landscape in Togo.



- iii) **Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA):** This MOU is strategic as it better positions the AACC to collaborate on the climate justice agenda in the continent.

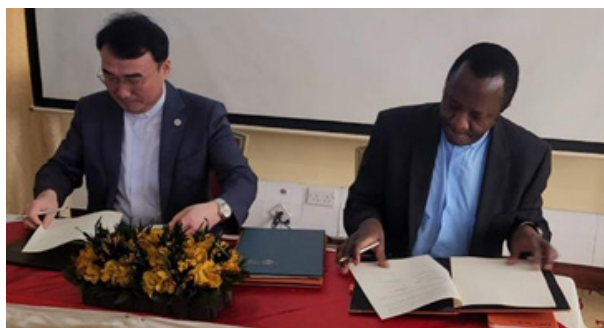
The above MoU was signed by the AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki, and his counterpart from PACJA, Executive Director, Dr. Mithika Mwenda. The MOU will see PACJA and AACC working together to leverage the ecumenical movement's platform of church leaders across the continent to reach out to communities in the continent to champion the fight against climate change.



AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki, and PACJA, Executive Director, Dr. Mithika Mwenda signing the MOU

Further during the period under review two Frameworks of Cooperation (FoC) were signed between the AACC and the following:

- a) **Council for World Mission (CWM):** to further deepen ecumenical collaboration on several programmatic areas, AACC and CWM identified three key areas of engagement namely, economic and social justice, creation care (climate justice) and capacity strengthening for CWM and AACC's member churches in mission, Diakonia and leadership. The FoC serves to provide a structured method of partnership that facilitates strategic coordination and follow up on programmatic areas of intervention. The FoC will guide and provide collaboration processes and working relationships between CWM and AACC as well as support each other's endeavours in their respective mission and mandate through programme initiation and implementation for the next five years.



AACC AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki and CWM CWM General Secretary Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum



b) **World Vision International (WVI), East Africa Regional Office** FoC was signed on May 26th 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya. The two organizations identified three areas of partnership namely; a) Economic and Social Justice; b) Creation Care and Climate Justice (Ecological Stewardship); and c) Formation in Mission, Ecumenism, Diakonia and Leadership. This FoC will provide a structured method of partnership that facilitates strategic coordination and collaboration on programmatic areas of intervention that are of mutual interest to both organizations.



WVI-Regional Vice-President Dr. Stephen Omollo with the AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki during the signing ceremony

iv) **Partnership with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the Launch of the Salama Hub:** - During the period under review, the AACC entered into a partnership with AFSC that led to the launch of the Salama hub on 18th November 2022. The AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, graced the event which was also attended by the General Secretary of AFSC Joyce Ajlouny, leaders from Bread for the World, staff of AACC and AFSC and other invited guests.

Salama Hub is a consortium between AFSC and AACC which is committed to strengthening the capacities of organizations and activists in the quest for sustainable peace in the Horn of Africa region supported by Bread for the World. It is a peacebuilding initiative of working to transform lives in the Horn of Africa and nurturing local solutions for a peaceful Africa.



Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki – AACC General Secretary address during the launch of the Salama hub.



Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki – AACC GS, Joyce Ajlouny – AFSC GS and Christoph S. Yattara - BftW, cut the celebration cake at the Launch of the Salama hub in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – 18 November 2022

c) Support and accompaniment to Ecumenical Institutions



Rev. Dr. Hoyce Jacob Lyimo-Mbowe – Director MEF

- Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF), Kitwe, Zambia:** This is a faith-based and non-denominational institution situated in Kitwe, the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. The Foundation was formally established in 1959 with the main aim of serving the church and the community at large, in deepening their understanding of issues affecting the unity and renewal of the church in modern times and its responsibility in the life of the community. MEF is a Pan- African Institute whose core business has been to provide training in order to boost the much-needed human capital in our country, Africa and beyond. It still remains a champion in the provision of trainings in media and communication (journalism), youth leadership, peace building and conflict transformation and much more. During the period

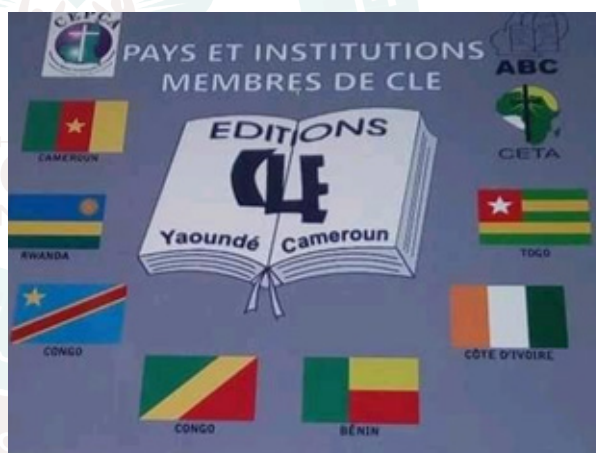
under review, the AACC continued to accompany this institution and we thank God that the institution has carried out its activities successfully and it is now self-sustainable.



A new director was appointed in 2019 and has contributed tremendous leadership to the institutional transformation going on through implementation of its 2022-2026 Strategic Plan under the theme: **“Moving MEF to Greater Heights by Transforming and Making it Sustainable.”** This plan identifies seven strategic directions that it will pursue in the next five years, its vision and mission through the by observing the core values and responding to the cross-cutting issues and emphasizes innovation and broad engagement in the rapidly changing world around the MEF. Further, through the new culture propagated by this new theme, MEF as a Pan African and well-known faith-based institution will strive to be responsive to the real needs of the church in Zambia, Africa and the world as a whole in a manner that will lead to prosperity of all participants which will be reflected by the attraction of more participants in all its activities. Additionally, the AACC is planning from 2024 onwards to start a Masters Programme in Ecumenical Theological Education at this institution which will further raise the institution’s profile continentally and globally.

- **Editions Cle, Yaounde, Cameroon :**

The AACC being a founding member of Edition CLÉ, has been present in the life of this institution through its representation throughout the period under review through Rev. Prof. Bosela who was the President of Editions CLE. Editions CLE had its general assembly on March 9th, 2022 at Porto-Novo, Benin. In the meeting, a new Executive Council was formed and even though Prof. Bosela’s contract has ended, the AACC still holds the position of President within the institution. In addition, during the assembly, some very important resolutions were taken to improve the life of the institution. Among these were the renewal of the contract of the Director, Rev. Prof Nicodème Ibilade Alagbada for another 5 years. Unfortunately, the institution lost its Director, Rev. Prof Nicodème Ibilade ALAGBADA on February 6th 2023. The AACC sent a letter of condolence to the institution and the church of origin of the deceased and has continued to accompany the institution.





3.1.3. Communication and Networking

The Communications unit disseminated information and increased the AACC's presence and outreach on social media (Facebook, Twitter-X, Instagram and YouTube). News and information were sent out real-time and this increased traffic to the AACC website and social media pages through the hashtag **(#AfricaMyHomeMyFuture)** on all platforms and the General Assembly hashtags. Statements issued on different occasions were sent out as well as press releases and prayer alerts as situations evolved. The AACC's newsletter was issued quarterly.

Communication work on the General Secretary's role on various engagements in the continent were disseminated such as vaccine champion during the COVID-19 pandemic that was produced and widely circulated with a strong vaccination message. There was growing demand for General Secretary's voice on different advocacy engagements where he issued Advocacy statements on Key African Issues obtaining in the continent. Various issues were rolled out on the AACC's social media channels thus increasing the visibility of the AACC. AACC's work also received wide media coverage that created strong awareness linkages for publicity of AACC activities with good coverage achieved where stories on activities were regularly published thus raising AACC's profile and brand.

3.1.4. Africans in the Diaspora and People of African Descent

The AACC during the period under review sought to engage with Africans in Diaspora. One opportunity came through the Africa and Africans in diaspora (AAD) conference where the AACC engaged with the processes leading to it especially facilitating the engagement of the relevant departments of the African Union Commission with the process. Further, Africans in the diaspora were invited to participate in AACC activities such as the All Africa Youth Congress and the 12th General Assembly.

3.2. Effective Management and Sustainability

3.2.1. Human Resource Management

The secretariat endeavored to maintain a highly effective, motivated and qualified human resource workforce, which remained relatively stable during the period under review. Due to increased programmatic and administrative activities, new staff joined the employment of the organization whereas others left upon successfully completion of their terms of service. Staff remained very motivated and enthusiastic in the discharge of their duties and the staff morale was very high. The effective management of staff and the organization



became more result oriented, thus increasing partners' and other stakeholders' confidence in the organization. Additionally, the staff related costs reduced significantly in 2022.

3.2.2. Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) System

In the 2019-2023 strategy, the AACC's secretariat's Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) system was put in place where the AACC designed a monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress and measure performance of AACC's work. As a result, the following took place:

a) Training on PMER amongst staff:

In-house training for staff was carried out to ensure that all staff gained the skills needed to perform their job efficiently and smoothly, to work better while taking advantage of what technology offers. The aim was to equip staff with skills that would enhance their use of technology in program planning and implementation, for efficient, effective and timely reporting to donors/partners, which resulted in increased motivation and productivity.

b) Developing PMER Tools:

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting tools were developed and implemented throughout the period. Consistent management of the PMER System was also done.

3.2.3. Financial Management and Compliance

Sound internal control mechanisms by regular checks and review were carried out to ensure compliance of donor regulations, government statutory requirements and AACC policies. This reduced risks and enhanced the management of the organization.

3.2.4. Sustainability

The AACC Secretariat is continuously strategizing to maintain a sustainable organization. On the side of Mission and Programmes the following were implemented:

- Fundraising through new projects and networking to identify new members and partners was intensified – both proved to be successful. AACC will continue in these strides to increase collaboration and funding.
- Maintenance of a robust financial management. This includes maintaining a zero-deficit policy, adherence to our internal control systems and donor requirements to ensure donor and statutory compliance.

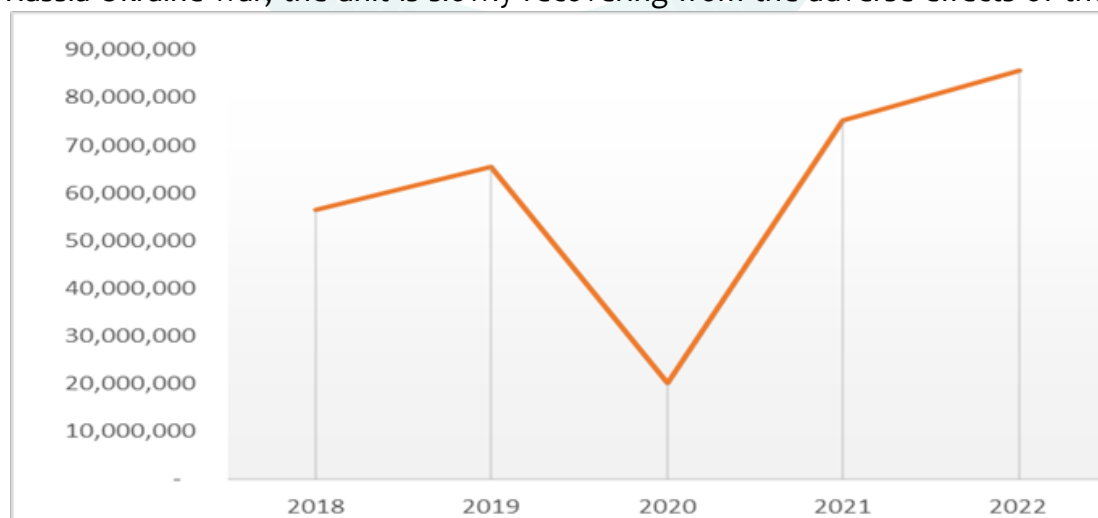


- Effective and efficient management of borrowings by complying with all loan agreements and ensuring all payments are made on the due dates. Also, during this period, management tried to minimize the acquisition of additional long-term loans, thus reducing its indebtedness and freeing some own income for further development purposes.
- The upgrade of our operating software (accounting, hotel and property management, and introduction of a human resource software) for a more efficient and effective management and reporting.
- Formulation of a new 5-year strategic plan (2024-2028) to continue AACCC's programmatic work on the current thematic areas, but also engaging in new and emerging issues that affect our continent Africa.

The Strategic Business unit (SBU) has been the main source of own funding for the AACCC. Before the COVID-19 era, the SBU had an average earning of Kshs 61,000,000 per year, hence contributed immensely to the organization operational expenses. However, this unit of the organization was adversely affected during the COVID-19 pandemic, thus recording a return that was far below the annual average as shown on the diagram below.

Graph 1: SBU Five Years Financial Results (2018-2022)

Despite the economic downturn experienced by most countries during the COVID-19 and post COVID-19 period (2021 and 2022), especially the devaluation of national currencies against the US dollar, the escalation of fuel prices and the Russia-Ukraine war; the unit is slowly recovering from the adverse effects of the



pandemic. This is evidenced by the rise in earnings in 2021 and 2022, depicted by the orange curve on the graph.



To be able to achieve this turn-around and ensure sustainability of the unit, the following were done:

- Staff capacity at DTCC was increased to accommodate the pressure of growing business.
- In an effort to rebrand the DTCC, refurbishing and renovation work commenced in 2021 to give a face uplift to the DTCC. Also, the service of a German consultant was solicited, who was seconded by Bread for the World, Germany, and he made some recommendations which are being implemented.

Refurbishing and renovation works include:

- Renovation/installation of water heating systems, thus addressing some challenges that the DTCC had in the previous years. The water heating systems have helped the DTCC to fully optimize the 104 rooms. Rectifying these utilities enables DTCC to circulate the 104 rooms, which were previously out of circulation.
- Increased restaurants operations due to increased walk-in guests and outside catering services. The restaurant section was able to enlist 3 additional clients for outside catering services (CBM Kenya, CBM Global and LM international) in the year 2022.
- Re-tiling of the DTCC Open restaurant, Jubilee Hallway and other common areas.
- Upgraded 16 rooms in Phase 2 including painting for better ambience and wardrobes partitioned for purposes of increasing their usage.
- New sets of imported cutleries acquired from Germany.
- A new elevator was procured and installed in the Bishop Josiah Kibira House.

3.2.5. AACC Financial Overview

The overall financial performance of the AACC has improved over the five years under review, 2018 to 2022. In the first three years of the reporting period, 2018 to 2020, the organization incurred a deficit financial result of an average of KShs 40,108,305.50 per year. In 2020, although the organization incurred a deficit, there was an improved financial performance that shows a decrease of the deficit incurred from KShs 42,849,709 in 2019 to KShs 8,878,221 in 2020.

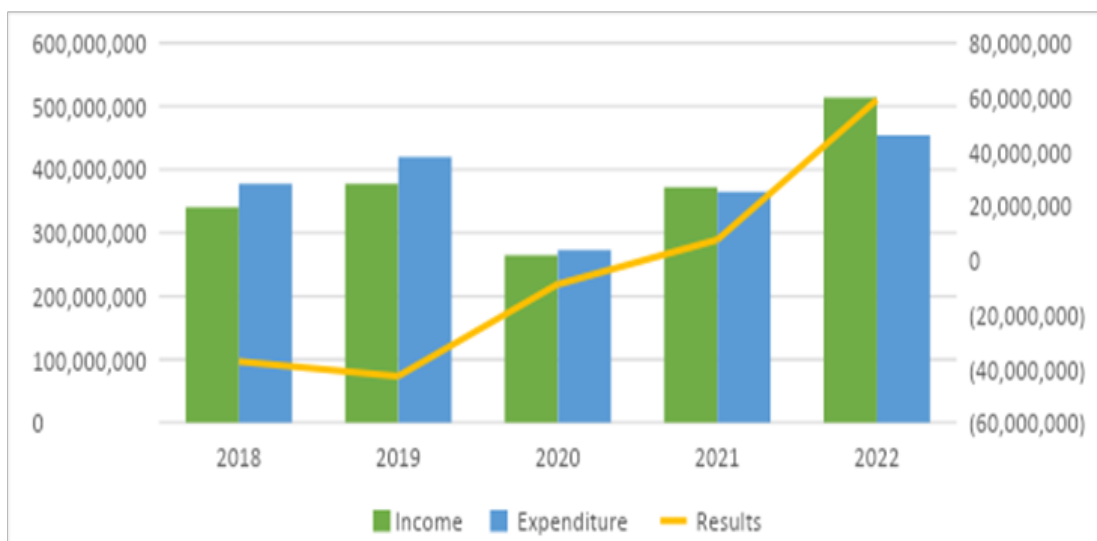
From the graph below, it is shown that AACC financial performance in 2021 and 2022 improved tremendously. The end of year results improved from a deficit result of KShs 8,878,221 in 2020 to a surplus of KShs 7,439,876 in 2021 and a further surplus



of KShs 59,007,829 in 2022.

The yellow line on the graph below, represents the improvement of the financial performance of the organization from 2018 to 2022.

Graph 2: AACC Five Years Financial Performance (2018-2022)

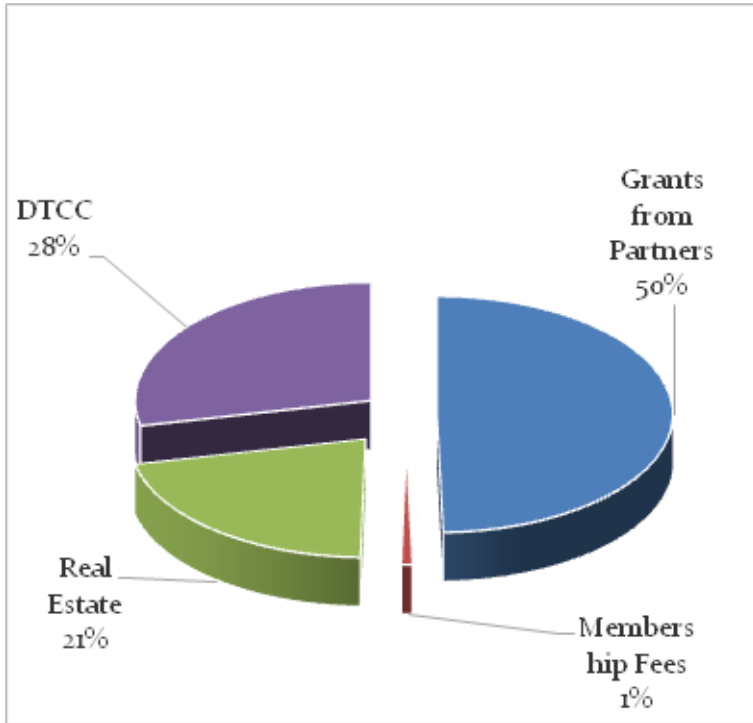


Sources of funding

The AACC continues to derive its income from four main sources: the grants from ecumenical partners, membership fees from member churches and related organizations and Desmond Tutu Conference Centre and Real Estate (which is made up the Strategic Business Unit (SBU)). As shown in the pie chart below, graph 3a, the ecumenical partners contributed an average of 50% for the whole reporting period (2018-2022), whilst the AACC’s own contributions accounted for 50% of the total income earned- Membership fees (1%) and SBU (49%).



Graph 3a: Where did the money come from



Graph 3b: Five-year Income Trend (2018-2022)





Graph 3b shows the 5-year trend of how AACC derived its income. The income derived in 2019 was an 11% increase of the 2018 income. In 2020, the organization had a decrease of 30% of its income due the COVID-19 pandemic, but experienced an increased total income in both 2021 (41%) and 2022 (38%). These increases were results of:

- Increased partners' grants either in new projects or increase in the committed funds of on-going projects.
- Increase in the business derived from the SBU, especially DTCC.
- Implementation of a prudent financial management and monitoring processes and introduction of the zero-deficit policy in order to manage the risk of incurring deficit at the end of the year.

How was the Missions and Programmes Money Spent?

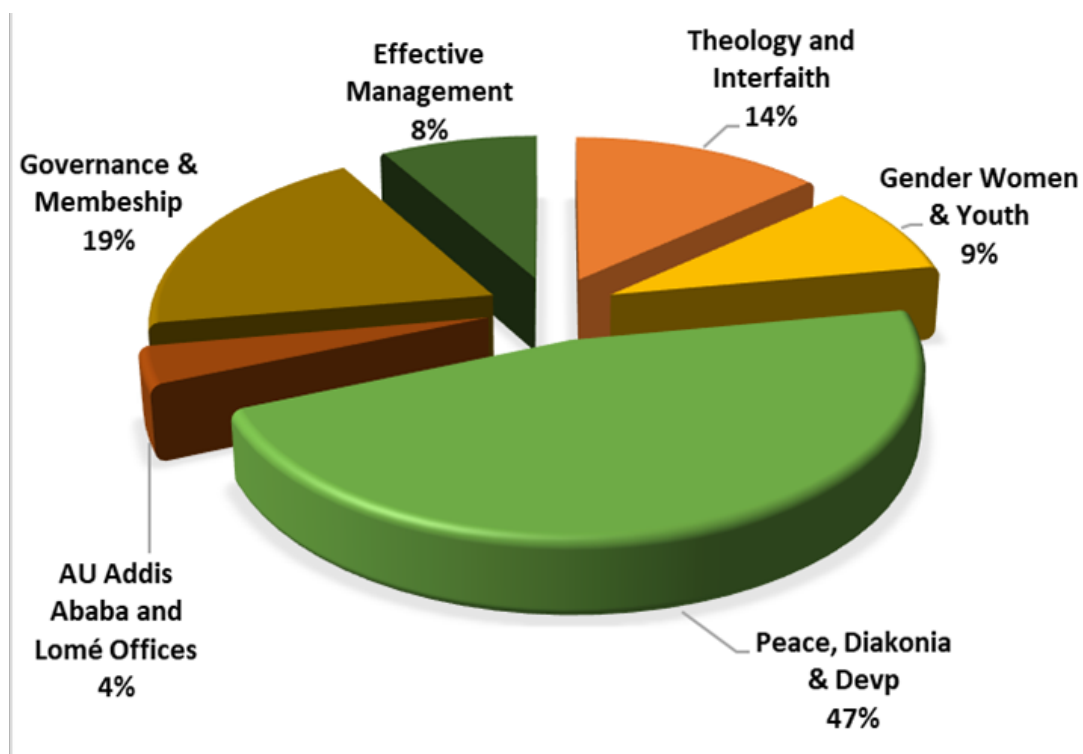
The total expenditure incurred for Mission and Programmes for the reporting period (2018-2022) was KShs 1,251,515,445 (USD 10,012,124, at an exchange rate Kshs: USD 125 as at 31st December 2022). 72% of the total expenditure was spent on the programmatic pillars on the following thematic areas:

- Theology and Interfaith 14%
- Gender Women & Youth 9%
- Peace, Diakonia & Development 47%
- AU Addis Ababa and Lomé Offices 4%

The total expenditure incurred on the organizational pillar was **28%**, Governance & Membership **19%**, and Effective Management **9%**. This shows that funds raised were mostly designated for programmatic work with less than one-third spent operational/administrative costs.



Graph 4: How was the money spent? (2018-2022)



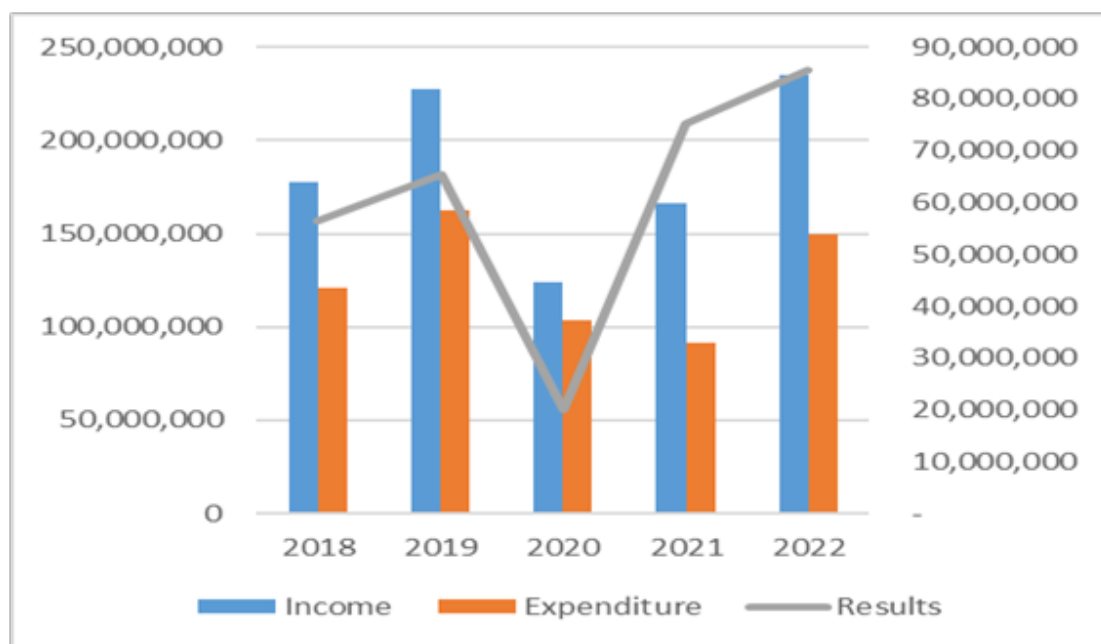
Strategic Business Unit Financial Performance

Strategic Business Unit (SBU) is AACC’s main source of raising its own funding. This unit was adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic but has been gradually recovering from the effects of the pandemic. For the period under review, the unit continues to improve its financial performance with progressive increase in revenue collection from 2018 to 2022 although there was a decrease in the end of year results in 2020 mainly due to COVID-19.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE-STRATEGIC BUSINESS UNIT					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Income					
DTCC-Accommodation, Restaurant and Conference facilities	85,451,244	135,740,272	33,503,699	77,130,190	142,244,694
Real Estate-Rental, parking and service charge fees	91,696,304	91,783,646	90,282,277	88,219,817	91,267,206
Other income	94,338	98,158	198,819	1,127,329	1,403,300
Total Income	177,241,886	227,622,076	123,984,795	166,477,336	234,915,200
Less Total Expenditure	120,772,275	162,094,927	103,931,773	91,265,831	149,285,419
Results Surplus/Deficit before Contributions from SBU	56,469,611	65,527,149	20,053,022	75,211,505	85,629,781
Contributions from SBU	(48,713,424)	(55,297,396)	(17,477,579)	(53,247,431)	(45,093,563)
Results Surplus/Deficit for the year	7,756,187	10,229,753	2,575,443	21,964,074	40,536,218



Graph 5: A five-year Financial Performance -Strategic Business Unit (2018-2022)



As shown on the table and **Graph 5** above, the revenue earned in 2019 was a 32% increase from the 2018 income. Even though there was a drop in income by 25% in 2020, an impressive increase in the performance was realized in 2021 (53% compared to 2020) and 2022 (35% compared to 2021). Comparatively, despite the increases in prices of raw materials as a result of high inflation, there was great improvement in the financial performance during this reporting period, with an increase in the net result from KShs. 7,756,187 in 2018 to KShs. 40,536,218 in 2022.

DTCC General Operations

During the period under review, the following additional improvements were carried out:

- Additional WIFI routers were installed in the Jubilee block and Phase 2 rooms with a resultant boost of WIFI accessibility in the rooms.
- CCTV surveillance has been upgraded with live connectivity to the General Managers office and the reception desk, covering all the public areas within the hotel, all floors hall ways in jubilee block, phase 1 & 2 rooms' corridors, all entrances to the conference rooms, the lawns, the gym entrance, the cafeteria and the laundry area.
- World Vision International (WVI) contracted DTCC to provide catering services to their complex in Karen, Nairobi, on a three-year renewable contract based

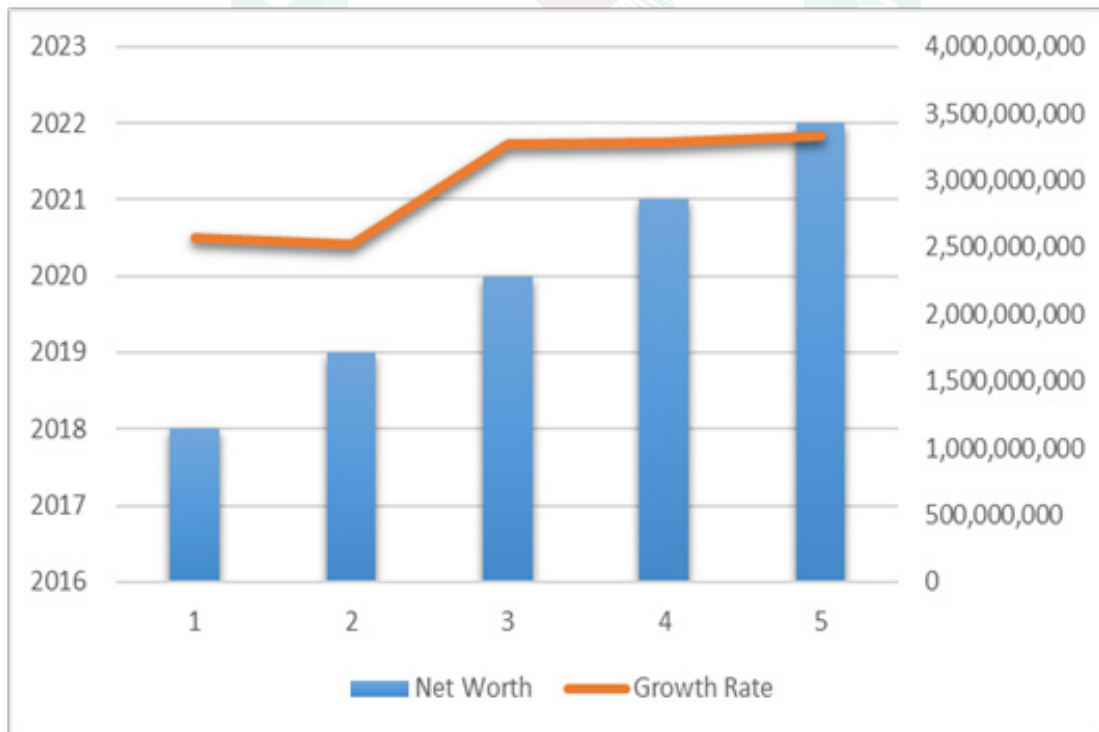


on performance. The WVI complex has a total of 11 departments, 7 meeting rooms and a workforce of 250 staff. Annual turnover for the project is projected to be between Ksh. 20 million and Ksh. 25 million.

- Acquisition of 100 sets of Translation and Interpretation equipment.
- Re-carpeting and redecorating of the Seminar Room 4 meeting room.
- Redesigning of Seminar Room 1 to include changing the entrance and installing a wheelchair ramp.
- Repainting of all public areas to give a fresh coat of painting which has improved remarkably the appearance of the facility.

The AACC Financial Position 2018-2022

Reviewing the AACC’s financial position at a trend of 5 years (2018-2022), as shown on the graph below, the AACC had a positive growth rate of 1.02% per annum since 2020. The AACC’s net worth as at 31st December 2022, was USD/KSH 3,335,645,493, showing a 1.46% (Kshs 48,031,932) growth in 2022 compared with 2021 and 1.90% (KShs 62,066,029) when compared with 2020 net worth. However, there was a declined growth of 2% in 2019.





Graph 6: AACC 5-Year Trend of Net Worth and Growth Rate

The growth is also accompanied by healthy financial positions that enable the organization to honor its liabilities and statutory obligations. Looking at the table below, we see that the net current assets/working capital, continues to improve from a negative figure to a positive. From 2019 to 2021, the net current assets of the organization have been negative amount KShs -52,481,529 (2019); KShs -57,455,059 (2020) and KShs -30,336,794 (2021). This means that the organization did not have the capacity to meet its short-term liabilities with assets which were either cash or cash equivalent. This improved at the end of 2022, with a positive current asset of KShs 16,984,445. This shows that as at the end of 2022, the organization had enough cash and cash equivalent assets to meet its short-term obligations.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2022					
	2018 Kshs	2019 Kshs	2020 Kshs	2021 Kshs	2022 Kshs
Funds	2, 490, 838,553	2, 447, 988, 844	3, 194, 578, 336	3, 202, 036, 611	3, 264, 214, 889
Non Current Liabilities	79, 593, 345	77, 970, 821	79, 001, 128	85, 576, 950	71, 430,554
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	2, 570, 431, 898	2, 525, 959,665	3, 273,579,464	3, 287, 613, 561	3, 335, 645, 443
PRESENTED BY					
Non Current Assets	2, 567, 269, 519	2, 578, 441, 194	3, 331, 034,523	3, 317,950,355	3, 318, 660, 998
Current Assets	68, 788, 792	51, 824, 858	50, 387, 844	58, 030, 154	95, 903, 850
Current Liabilities	65, 626, 413	104, 306, 387	107, 842, 903	88, 366, 948	78, 919,405
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	3, 162,379	(52, 481,529)	(57, 455,059)	(30, 336,794)	16, 984, 445
TOTAL ASSETS	2, 570, 431, 898	2, 525, 959,665	3, 273, 579, 464	3, 287, 613,561	3, 335, 645,443



4. CONCLUSION

The 2019 -2023 Strategy has been implemented successfully as it has been reported in this report. The organization has continued to grow in membership and partnerships and we are grateful to all our stakeholders who have enabled us to achieve the success and growth reported in this report. Though this has not been without challenges, we thank all our stakeholders for their prayers, contributions, support and encouragement that we have received throughout the period. All these great achievements have been made possible by the sound leadership provided by the governing bodies coupled with the strong leadership provided by the AACC's General Secretary, Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki through effective management and sustainability that has ensured the organization delivers its mandate and remains sustainable. As an organization, the AACC remains indebted to the staff who have worked tirelessly during the period under review to realize these tremendous achievements emphasized in this report, without whom none of these would have been possible.



We are grateful to the Almighty God for the strength, resilience and opportunities that we have had during the period under review to actualize our mandate as well as accompany our members in the continent. A particular encouraging development during the period under review has been the increased invitations the AACC has received from our members and multilateral institutions to collaborate or partner in addressing the numerous issues facing the people in our African continent. This has elevated the role of the AACC as an ecumenical organization in the continent, increased its visibility and built its track record for accompaniment of churches especially those in difficult situations.

As we celebrate our 60th anniversary and usher in another momentous journey in the next five years, we are aware that our continent in particular and the world in general continues to face numerous challenges ranging from the growing impacts of climate change, tightening global financial conditions, and spillover effects of rising geopolitical tensions, as well as the rising global food and energy prices etc, that will require us to continue accompanying our member churches. Thus, we have developed our 2024 – 2028 strategy that provides us with the blueprint through which we intend to operate with a lot of creativity and innovation in order to address the challenges and also to offer alternative solutions to those that we serve.



We appreciate the good gesture extended to the AACC by all our stakeholders whose unwavering support we will continue to count on as we start the next five years after this 12th General Assembly of the AACC. We will continue to nurture the partnerships that we have developed during the period under review and embark on an earnest process of building more partnerships and increasing our work in the continent.

While we celebrate our key achievements during the period under review, we remain mindful of the numerous challenges that continues to buffet the continent that will require our response and accompaniment. We remain optimistic about the future of our continent, the Africa We Want, as envisaged in the 20 goals of Agenda 2063 which is the **Africa We Pray For! Africa: My Home, My future!**

Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki

AACC's General Secretary

