



ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
ACRONYMS	5
i. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	7
1. INTRODUCTION	10
2. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN THE YEAR 2024	10
2.1. Theology and Interfaith Relations	10
2.2. Ecclesial Leadership Development.....	14
2.3. Gender and Women.....	15
2.4. Youth.....	20
2.5. Economic and Ecological Justice	33
2.6. Peace in Africa.....	35
2.7. Advocacy and The African Union /African Union Office.....	39
2.8. Regional Office Lomé (ROL)	45
3. ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY	49
3.1. Governance, Membership Development and Networking	49
3.2. Effective Management and Sustainability.....	54
4. CONCLUSION	56

FOREWORD

Dear AACC Stakeholders,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) for 2024. This report provides an overview of AACC's work during the period under review which marked the beginning of our journey of implementing the AACC 2024-2028 Strategy. We are grateful to God for the milestones reached.



The year 2024 was marked by positive developments and emerging opportunities in the continent. While we witnessed positive political transitions in some African countries, political instability in some regions in the continent prevailed amidst persistent geopolitical tensions, effects of high inflation, climate change with severe impacts from extreme weather events, including droughts and floods, as well as several youth-led protests across Africa demonstrated a growing movement fueled by frustrations over corruption, poor governance, high living costs, and unemployment. Despite these unfolding situations, the AACC continued to accompany her members and recorded positive results during the period under review in the various thematic areas outlined in our strategy.

Key amongst the many achievements during the year were the launch of the AACC's Master of Theology in Ecumenical Leadership (MTEL) which was successfully initiated via a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with St. Paul's University and taught at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation. Further, we expanded our partnership by signing MOUs with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and continued amplifying our work in the areas of peace, governance, democracy and advocacy at continental and global level. AACC's work on gender, women and youth was strengthened by the launch of AACC continental campaign against SGBV under the slogan "*let love lead: End SGBV*". We continued to accompany the AACC's Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ) and economic justice champions who continued to engage in ecological and economic justice activities. Our Regional Office in Lome (RoL) remained vibrant in executing its mandate in addition to implementing activities that focused on ending SGBV and safeguarding human dignity in the context of migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery.

My office played a pivotal role in ensuring that the AACC's governing bodies effectively performed their functions as stipulated in the AACC's constitution as well as Standing Orders and coordinated the activities of the secretariat which handled governance, membership development, communications and networking as well as responded to various invitations from AACC's stakeholders. I engaged with AACC members and partners at various levels,

visited several member churches and partners in Africa, Europe and China. I am deeply grateful for the steadfast support of our partners whom despite global challenges, they have continued to support the work of the AACC.

AACC remains strong and we thank God for the growth we have experienced and all the great work that happened in 2024. I thank all our staff for their dedication, commitment and hard work and accomplishment this past year. At the Secretariat we have been, and remain, fully committed to supporting all stakeholders as we implement our 2024-2028 Strategy.

I thank you all for your continued support to our work as we steer the AACC forward.

**Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki,
General Secretary**

ACRONYMS

AACC	All Africa Conference of Churches
AU	African Union
AFAN-CJ	Africa Faith Actors Network on Climate Justice
AGA APSA	African Governance Architecture – African Peace and Security Architecture
AMECEA	Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa.
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMI	Alternative Mining Indaba
Bot	Board of Trustees
CEVAWG	Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
CAPA	Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa
CEC	Conference of European Churches
CIDO	Citizens and Diaspora Directorate
CITG	Compassion International Togo
COP	Conference of Parties
CCDA	Climate Change and Development in Africa
CCM	Council of Churches in Mozambique
CCME	Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CWM	Council for World Mission
CWME	Commission on World Mission and Evangelism
DTCC	Desmond Tutu Conference Centre
EAC	East Africa Community
EALA	East Africa Legislative Assembly
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa States
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social, and Cultural Council
EMW	Evangelische Mission Weltweit / Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany
ENSS	Ecumenical Network on South Sudan
EPEPPA	Eminent Persons Ecumenical Program for Peace in Africa
EU	European Union
FBOs	Faith Based Organisations
FECCLAHA	Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa
FPC	Finance and Personnel Committee
GA	General Assembly
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HOA	Horn of Africa
IAWM	International Association of Women Ministers
ICGLR	International Conference on The Great Lakes Region
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPSS	Institute for Peace and Security Studies
IWD	International Women's Days
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peace Training Centre
MCZ	Methodist Church Zimbabwe

MTEL	Master of Theology in Ecumenical Leadership
OPROGEM	Office for the Protection of Gender, Children and Morals
PROCMURA	Program for Christian-Muslim Relations
RCCN	Reformed Church of Christ For Nations
ROL	Regional Office Lome
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSCC	South Sudan Council of Churches
TJ	Transitional Justice
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
URI	United Religion Initiative
WCC	World Council of Churches
WCRC	World Communion for Reformed Churches
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YWCA	Young Women Christian Association

i. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2024 marked the beginning of the implementation of the AACC 2024-2028 Strategy as adopted at the AACC 12th General Assembly (GA) successfully held in November 2023 in Abuja, Nigeria. This report, therefore, covers activities implemented in the year 2024 under the different thematic areas as outlined in the strategy under the leadership of the AACC's General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki. The General Secretary ensured that all units worked well and that staff were motivated to remain effective in their work. The report also highlights key achievements, updates, and developments across various pillars as outlined in our strategy as follows: -

- a) **Theology Interfaith Relations and Ecclesial Leadership Development:** - AACC launched its flagship project: The Master of Theology in Ecumenical Studies (MTEL) at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in partnership with St. Paul's University. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the two organisations, curriculum developed, students recruited and learning progressed well during the year. Additionally, the department continued with its theological symposia and the 5th symposium themed "**Role of Governments' Regulation on Churches and Religious Institutions in Africa**," was convened in the last quarter of the year.
- b) **Gender, Women and Youth:** - In 2024, Gender, Women and Youth activities implemented focused on increasing awareness on the alarming incidence of SGBV in the continent. AACC launched a continental campaign against SGBV campaign under the slogan "let love lead: End SGBV". This campaign run by the young people gained momentum, increasing participation of young people in raising awareness and calling for an end. Additionally, engagement of young people on conversation on sexual and reproductive health and rights and awareness raising on the rights of widows increased. Collaboration with other relevant organisations addressing SGBV was amplified through the various initiatives undertaken on ending femicide, men's participation in the fight against SGBV e.g. through the AACC's Male Champions for gender justice as well as during the 16 days of activism. The AACC youth network also actively engaged in advocacy for tax and economic justice and various initiatives deepening the culture of peace in Africa. Under their campaign on Africa: My Home. My Future., the youth deepened their engagements on promoting active citizenship and Pan-Africanism, culminating into the planning process of the second All Africa Youth Congress.
- c) **Economic and ecological Justice:** - Building on the success achieved in the previous year, the AACC's Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ) and economic justice champion continued to engage in ecological and economic justice activities. Additionally, AACC collaborated with the Jubilee USA Network on engaging Africa Based Faith Institutions on public debt and strengthening their capacity for sustained advocacy on public debt by faith actors following the development of a

continental strategy in Kigali, Rwanda from 18 to 19 July 2024. The strategy became the advocacy tool for AACC in its participation in key engagement processes that involved strategic stakeholders such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- d) **Migration, Trafficking in Persons and Modern Slavery:** Through this thematic pillar, the AACC endeavored to safeguard human dignity in the context of migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery. Various activities were carried out that advocated for just and fair treatment of migrants, increased awareness on the dangers of human trafficking and irregular migration among young people and families and collaborated with other ecumenical institutions to address the challenges of migration.
- e) **Peace in Africa** - in the year 2024, Africa saw a complex and evolving peace and security landscape, with both progress and challenges. The AACC continued to accompany members in the continent by maintaining an ecumenical presence for sustainable peace in Africa, through the AACC's Eminent Persons Ecumenical Program for Peace in Africa (EPEPPA) as well as supporting them in reconciliation and mediation initiatives. The AACC signed an MOU with the International Conference on The Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). Additionally, AACC accompanied countries undergoing democratic transitions and deployed election observers to Mozambique and Ghana.
- f) **Advocacy at the African Union:** In 2024, AACC's Advocacy engagements at the African Union's advocacy focused on four key areas namely representation of faith-based voices, engagement with Agenda 2063, capacity strengthening and engaging with global and continental development agendas. These activities were implemented through the two projects implemented in the AACC Liaison office in Addis Ababa namely the Horn of Africa Peace Project and the Project on Enhancing Capacities of the AACC to Heighten its Advocacy Role for Human Dignity & Justice in the Continent. During the period under review, key achievements were on the signing, of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Center to build the capacity of civil society and faith- based organizations on issues relating to democracy, elections, governance and human rights in Africa as well as the award recognition received by the AACC from ECOSOCC.
- g) **Governance, Membership Development and Networking:** - The office of the General Secretary played a pivotal role in ensuring that the governing bodies effectively performed their functions as stipulated in the AACC's constitution as well as Standing Orders and coordinated the activities of the secretariat which handled governance, membership development, communications and networking as well as responded to various invitations from AACC's stakeholders. The General Secretary visited AACC members across the continent which increased the visibility of the AACC. Additionally,

he engaged with partners at various levels and visiting several partners in Africa, Europe and China. AACC membership increased and more partners were brought onboard.

- h) **Effective Management and Sustainability:** - Effective management and sustainability involved prudent management of the organization's resources (Human resources, financial resources and management of the organization's material resources), ensuring compliance and sustainability of the organization. These was guided by the organizational policies and procedures with strict adherence to the operating policies and guidelines. New staff joined the organization, while others completed their contracts or retired. Staff motivation remained high, they were trained on PMER system enabling the organization to achieve the performance milestones outlined in this report. AACC enhanced its Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure through improvements and upgrades undertaken to improve system reliability, enhance operational efficiency, strengthening digital presence, and align AACC with modern ICT standards to support the AACC's strategic goals.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Overview of the operating context

In 2024, the AACC embarked on a new five-year journey of implementation of the **AACC 2024 – 2028 Strategy** as adopted in Abuja, Nigeria in 2023. During this period, the AACC continued to accompany its member churches on the continent in a context that was marked by both significant challenges and emerging opportunities. The continent faced severe impacts from extreme weather events, including droughts and floods, as well as ongoing security concerns and political instability in some regions. However, there were also positive developments, such as advancements in digital transformation and some positive political transitions.

The year 2024 saw the continent grapple with unprecedented flooding and droughts, intensifying hunger, displacement, and insecurity across various regions that prompted the AACC General Committee at its sitting in May 2024 to issue a statement on these issues as a sign of solidarity with fellow Africans who were severely affected.

Ongoing conflicts in South Sudan, Somalia, and Guinea Bissau, along with the rise of violent extremism in various regions and military juntas in West Africa region, posed substantial security challenges that called on the AACC to enhance and amplify its ecumenical presence for sustainable peace in Africa by maintaining high level ecumenical diplomacy through the AACC's Eminent Persons Ecumenical Program for Peace in Africa (EPEPPA). Coups in some countries such as Burkina Faso and the threat to democracy in other countries in Africa created instability and concern. However, significant elections in some countries resulted in peaceful transfers of power, reinforcing democratic processes.

At the programmatic level, two new projects were started one on Churches Campaign Against SGBV and the Master of Theology in leadership Studies.

Financially the AACC remained stable and strong during the period under review and partners engagement and collaborations flourished as new requests for partnerships and collaborations from different angles were received.

2. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN THE YEAR 2024

2.1. Theology and Interfaith Relations

The following activities were implemented:

2.1.1. Ecumenical Formation

2.1.1.1. Master of Theology in Ecumenical Leadership (MTEL)

This was launched in 2024 at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe, Zambia in partnership with St. Paul University (Limuru - Kenya) where AACC signed an MOU with the university. Curriculum was developed and recruitment of ten students was successfully done. The Programme started on 1st June 2024 with ten students from 8 countries who came from 10 AACC member churches. Curriculum was developed. Teaching and Learning went on smoothly throughout the year and was done by both St. Paul University Lecturers and AACC academically qualified staff namely Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, Rev. Dr. Lesmore Gibson and Rev. Dr. John Njoroge. The students were also exposed to ecumenism in October 2024 where they attended

the AACC Symposium on misleading theologies and visited St. Pauls University as part of their learning and exposure.



Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki AACC General Secretary and Rev. Canon Prof. James Kombo - V.C. St. paul IUniversity Limuru -signing Memorandum of Agreement.

2.1.1.2. Addressing Misleading Theologies

In 2024, the AACC held its 5th Annual Theological symposium on the theme: **Role of Governments' Regulation on Churches and Religious Institutions in Africa**. This was successfully held on October 28th – November 1st 2024, at Desmond Tutu Conference Center (DTCC) Nairobi, Kenya. It brought together 60 participants, including theologians, church leaders, policymakers, and representatives from across Africa. It sought to explore the balance between governmental oversight and religious autonomy. The symposium aimed to evaluate



The 5th Annual Theological Symposium Group Photo 2024

the role of governments in regulating churches while safeguarding religious freedom, analyze country-specific approaches to church-state relations, identify strategies for mitigating misleading theologies, and promote collaboration between governments and religious institutions to address societal challenges. Key

discussions centered on regulatory frameworks in various African countries, with Kenya's Shakahola tragedy serving as a case study of the dangers posed by insufficient oversight. In Rwanda, post-genocide regulations

requiring theological qualifications for church leaders and the closure of non-compliant churches provided a model for fostering accountability. Nigeria's discussions highlighted the challenges of financial transparency and doctrinal accountability amid religious extremism, while discussions from Zambia examined the tensions between the state and the church. The symposium also explored theological perspectives on church-state relations, drawing on scriptural insights such as Romans 13:1-7 and historical models like John Calvin's framework for church-state cooperation. These discussions provided a foundation for understanding the delicate balance between protecting religious liberties and ensuring ethical governance within religious institutions. Additionally, participants addressed the proliferation of misleading theologies, including the prosperity gospel, and emphasized the importance of robust theological education, sound hermeneutics, and pastoral accountability in countering harmful doctrines. The symposium Council of Churches model, as pathways to reduce government overreach.

The symposium also explored the potential for partnerships between governments and religious institutions to tackle societal challenges like healthcare, education, and economic empowerment while maintaining the independence and prophetic role of the church. It concluded with recommendations for balanced regulatory frameworks that respect religious freedoms, the strengthening of self-regulation through ecumenical structures, and collaborative efforts to ensure that religious institutions contribute meaningfully to social development. It also underscored the importance of mutual accountability and provided actionable insights for fostering ethical, transparent, and socially responsible church-state relations across Africa. The 5th Annual Theological Symposium proceedings will be published after going through the editorial processes.

2.1.1.3. Archives and Library Development



Library Books Display at the Reception

An archivist/ Programme Assistant was recruited from 6th May and the major task was to Develop, organize, maintenance and day-to-day running of the Archives and the library. So far Nine (9) boxes of archive materials have been Digitized Identification, Classification and Indexing with the use of Keywords. Recording into Excel Document for easy access. Transfer of relevant books from Stores, dusting and arranging. Classification using Dewey Decimal Classification. Display of the Artifacts donated to AACC from different parts of Africa. Display of Framed Pictures on the library wall, as well as Books Display table.



Section of the AACC Library

2.1.1.4. Other Related Theological Activities with Partners

a) **Council for World Mission (CWM)**– on 24th – 28th March 2024, CWM organized a symposium on spirituality, politics and polities (states). The symposium was organized in partnership with the Institute for the Study of Culture and Christianity (Belgrade, Serbia). It brought together fifteen (15) theologians, political scientists, scholars, and practitioners from eight (8) countries including Bosnia, Croatia, Greece, Kenya, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, and the USA. Among this were representatives from two ecumenical partners namely: Conference of European Churches (CEC) and All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC-CETA).



Rev. Dr. John Njoroge in (robes) AACC- Executive Secretary for Theology and Interfaith Relations among other participants.

b) **Program for Christian-Muslim Relations (PROCMURA)** – From 4th to 14th April 2024 PROCMURA invited AACC to participate in its 18th General Council Meeting and 65th Anniversary. During these events, the AACC Executive Secretary, Theology and Interfaith Relations delivered a good will message and greetings and also facilitated a peace workshop on ‘Climate justice Actions for sustainable peace in Africa’



Rev. Dr. John Njoroge delivering the good will message to the PROCMURA 18th General Council on behalf of the General Secretary

c) **AACC actively participated in two theological and interfaith related activities organized by partners.** The AACC participated in the annual conference on “Approaches to Decolonizing Mission and Church” organised by the Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany (EMW) in partnership with Mission Academy – University of Hamburg, from 18th – 20th June 2024. The symposium brought together fifteen (15) theologians, mission agencies, scholars, and practitioners from different countries including Germany, India, Kenya, Rwanda, Switzerland, Tanzania, United Kingdom and Cameroon.



Photo IV: Rev. Dr. John Njoroge in (second from left) AACC- Executive Secretary for Theology and Interfaith Relations among other participants.

2.2. Ecclesial Leadership Development

This was implemented through the following activities

2.2.1. Seminar on mission and ecumenism: - Under this activity line, the AACC collaborated with Council for World Mission (CWM) and World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) to convene an international consultation with the theme, “Global Consultation on Empire and Genocides: Where Lies Justice and Hope of Recovery?”. The international consultation took place from 21-24 August 2024 in Windhoek, Namibia and was hosted by the Council of Churches in Namibia. The Consultation brought together over 50 participants, including activists, church leaders, and academics from diverse global contexts, focusing on the critical issues of justice and recovery in the face of genocide. A key outcome of the consultation was the issuance of a thought-provoking statement with the title, “We Charge Genocide - Again! Cry of the Earth’s Peoples against the Geopolitics of Empire.”

2.2.2. Workshop on Eco-Diakonia and ecclesial leadership: - AACC organized a capacity strengthening workshop on Eco-Diakonia and ecclesial leadership that took place at Wisconsin International University College Accra, Ghana from 30th September to 3rd October 2024. It brought together 50 participants including church leaders, women and youth leaders drawn from Anglophone and Francophone Central and West African countries as well as other relevant stakeholders and individuals assigned with responsibilities. Some of the issues affecting the churches and church related institutions in Africa that workshop endeavored to address are: inadequate of interest by private investors to do business with religious institutions; lack of transparency; difficulties in keeping to contractual agreements; overly fluid timelines; difficult socio-political environments; complex or insufficient fiscal and legal regulations; lack of compliance government regulations and extant laws; inadequate diversification of

funding sources by churches; lack of adequate cash to develop the churches assets; weak management/ insufficient knowledge of financial and assets management by churches ' assets managers and hierarchical, leaders lacking knowledge of the properties owned by the churches, haphazard and unstructured plans for acquisition of church assets, failure to utilize opportunities such as growing urbanization in order to seek better returns on use of the church assets, use of misleading theology to perpetuate abuse of assets and rigid organizational culture among others.

2.3. Gender and Women

2.3.1. AAC's Participated at the Conference for the Six (6) African Anglican Women

Bishops at St Paul's University Limuru -Kenya on 11th January 2024 where is director for gender and women fed into the Conference for the current and only six (6) Anglican Women Bishops in Africa. The in-person event was hosted by St Paul's University Limuru Kenya. The Ecumenical gathering that brought together over three hundred participants comprising of Church leaders, different Church institutions and Faith Based organizations, University lecturers and students. The "Africa 6", as they were titled were engaged into a panel discussion about their calling, challenges in their work and challenges in leadership especially in the political arena in the continent. 'The Africa 6' serve as beacons of hope in the ongoing struggle for women's full participation in church leadership, especially in the Anglican Communion in Africa.



The Bishops are from left- Rt. Rev. Dr. Dalcy Badeli Dlamini (Eswatini, Swaziland), Rt. Rev. Dr. Vicentia Kgabe (Anglican Diocese of Lesotho), and Rt. Rev. Elizabeth Awut (Diocese of Rumbek-South Sudan). After Archbishop of Kenya-Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole-Sapit and Prof Esther Mombo (middle), the next Bishop is Rt. Rev. Filomena Teta (Angola), Rt. Rev. Dr. Emily Onyango (ACK Diocese of Bondo, Kenya), and Rt. Rev. Rose Okeno (ACK Diocese of Butere, Kenya),

2.3.2. Interfaith Roundtable Dialogue on Ending Femicide: - on 5th Feb 2024, AACC, in collaboration with Christian Aid, gathered together about 58 participants comprising Religious Leaders, Faith Based Organizations, Civil Society organizations and Lawyers at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre (DTCC), Nairobi, to foster a deeper discussion and understanding of the femicide cases in Kenya. Over the past months, the escalating cases of femicide in Kenya, which in January alone amounted to 14, sent shockwaves throughout the communities. Some of the cases included the stabbing to death of a 26-year old Starlet Wahu on 4th January, and the brutal murder and dismemberment of a



Group photo of participants at the Interfaith Roundtable Dialogue on Ending Femicide

20-year-old Rita Waeni in Nairobi with her remains scattered by the killer and some stuffed in a plastic bag on 14th January. Besides, Femicide Count Kenya, which monitors killings, reported in local news that they had recorded 58 deaths labelled as femicides (the

intentional killing of women because of their gender) between January and October 2022. In 2023, the organisation recorded at least 152 killings—the highest in the past five years. Thus, the main objectives of the Interfaith roundtable dialogue were: (a) To reflect on the state of Femicide and other forms of GBV in Kenya and their impact on the lives of women and men, boys and girls in the society; (b) To discuss the GBV legislative frameworks in place and their enforcement operationalization; (c) To issue a Statement on the state of femicide and other forms of GBV in Kenya, (d) To strengthen collaboration among religious leaders and other stakeholders in addressing femicide and other forms of GBV .

2.3.3. International Women's Day (IWD) on 8th March 2024: AACC celebrated this day in collaboration with World Council of Churches (WCC), Christian Aid, Church Women United (CWU) and International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) whose focus was on combatting femicide. This was done inform a webinar that explore comprehensive approaches to combatting femicide across various domains including religious, cultural, socio-economic, and legal-political spheres. Moreover, the webinar aimed to shed light on systemic injustices fostering misogyny and femicide, particularly within faith communities. Key speakers tackled the issue of femicide from various perspectives on the theme: “Invest in Women: End Femicide”. The event drew participation from 110 individuals across the globe. The IWD explored comprehensive approaches to combating femicide across various domains including religious, cultural,

socio-economic and legal-political spheres by shedding light on systemic injustices fostering misogyny and femicide, particularly within faith communities.

2.3.4. Annual virtual round-table dialogue for AACC male champions for gender justice-23rd May 2024

The AACC brought together 22 male champions for gender justice from Malawi, Uganda, Nigeria, the DRC, Togo and Cameroon aiming at engaging men in the fight against gender-based violence and promote gender equality and a shift from toxic masculinities to positive masculinities among men.

2.3.5. Multi-stakeholders Consultation on Ending femicide and other forms of GBV in Kenya on 30th May, 2024

The AACC in collaboration with the FECCLAHA, Christian Aid, ACT Alliance, F2A Network and CAPA with support from Church Women United, convened a Forum on ending Femicide and other forms of GBV. The consultation forged an Interfaith and Ecumenical obligation for sustained efforts towards ending femicide and other forms of GBV.



Group photo of the Multi-stakeholders Consultation on Ending femicide and other forms of GBV in Kenya

2.3.6. International Association of Women Ministers (IAWM) General Assembly meeting in Puerto-Rico from 2-8 June 2024. Rev. Dr. Lydia Mwaniki participated and fed into the International Association of Women Ministers (IAWM) bi-Annual General Assembly in Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, as a Board member of IAWM. The hybrid meeting brought together 15 women in-person and about 7 others virtually from different parts of the world. The General Assembly had several activities including presentations, business sessions, developing a strategic plan, sharing experiences of women in different contexts and especially women in leadership, and strengthening the fellowship through participating in the Lord's Supper, and other bonding activities such as show-casing uniqueness of our cultures through presentations and dress.

2.3.7. Celebration of International Widows' Day: - On 23rd June 2024, AACC in collaboration with the United Methodist Church Zimbabwe Episcopal Area, hosted an in-person vibrant and historic commemoration of International Widows' Day on the theme, "The Love of Christ compels us to accelerate advocacy for the Rights and Dignity of Widows in Zimbabwe." The event was held in Chisipiti United Methodist Church-Harare and was attended by over 350 participants. Awareness was raised about the international widows' Day given that this was the first physical Conference to mark the Day.

Participants were educated on the legal instruments available in Zimbabwe for protection of widows, as well as the AACC tool kit for justice for widows. Beneficiaries of AACC grant for widows showcased their handmade items that they were selling and widows shared their experiences, challenges and best practices in coping with widowhood. It was observed that economic and social lives of the beneficiaries of AACC's grants for widows had changed drastically whereby widows were able to meet their families' economic needs. Some of the widows were even participating in National shows.



Beneficiaries of AACC widows' grants- Elizabeth Madzivachando (right in a black hat) and Angeline Mawarire (in a red side-hat in the second photo) excited as they displayed their hand-made products to AACC Staff-Lydia and Anysie. Anysie (left) is wearing an exhibit hat from Elizabeth.

During the period under review, the AACC distributed funds to support widows' project in AACC constituency namely Africa Inland Church (AIC), Angolan Council of Christian Churches, National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), Episcopal Church of Sudan and Baptist Community in Central Africa (CBCA) received grants targeting improving the livelihoods for widows in their respective churches.

2.3.8. Participation in the in the Traditional and Religious Leaders Consultation on the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU CEVAWG): - This took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 3rd to 4th October 2024. This consultation brought together religious and traditional leaders from across Africa to discern on the scourge of violence against women and girls and to discuss the draft of the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls which is expected to be adopted at the February 2025 Heads of States Summit in Addis Ababa. The convention was a significant legal framework aimed at addressing and eliminating violence against women and girls across Africa. The outcomes of the AU CEVAWG initiative focused on creating a legally binding framework to address the root causes of violence, strengthen institutional mechanisms, and promote gender equality. AACC's involvement aligned with its mission to advocate for justice and human dignity, contributing to the broader goals of the convention for sustainable population. Key highlights of this convention were: -

- It **sought** to establish a legally binding framework to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls. It addresses root causes, strengthens institutional mechanisms, and promotes gender equality and human dignity.
- It **covered** various forms of violence, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence, as well as harmful practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early forced marriages.
- It was adopted in February 2025 during the AU's 38th Ordinary Session, marking a significant step toward a safer and more equitable future for women and girls.



The AACC delegation pictured above was comprised of: - From Left to right - Joshua Kimani, Mahlet Abreham, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, Gorden Simango, Ann Kioi, Justice Oman and Rev. Comfort Ruth Quartey-Papafio; Director, Gender, Family and Social Intervention; The Methodist Church Ghana.

a) **Commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV:** - This was marked from 25th November to 10th December, 2024 themed "Towards Beijing +30: UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls", emphasized the urgency of preventing gender-related killings and demands action to protect women and girls worldwide. The thematic focus aligned to the 2024 priority theme of the Commission on the Status of Women, focused on Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. The emphasis was building sustainable partnerships and emphasizing the need for collaborative action in ending GBV. The 16 Days campaign activated and amplified the commitments of 76 (42 women, 34 men) faith actors and leaders to prevent violence against women. Several outcomes were harvested including;

- Increased awareness on femicide and GBV, its causes, and its consequences, and a shared commitment to ending it.
- Increased partnership and collaboration leading to collaboration on GBV prevention beyond the 16 Days of Activism.
- Increased resources for GBV prevention and survivor support.

- Enhanced political will and commitment to implementing policies that protect women and girls and address GBV at national, regional, and local levels.
- Increased men engagement as potential allies in addressing GBV.

2.4. Youth

2.4.1. Churches Campaign Against SGBV in Africa project.

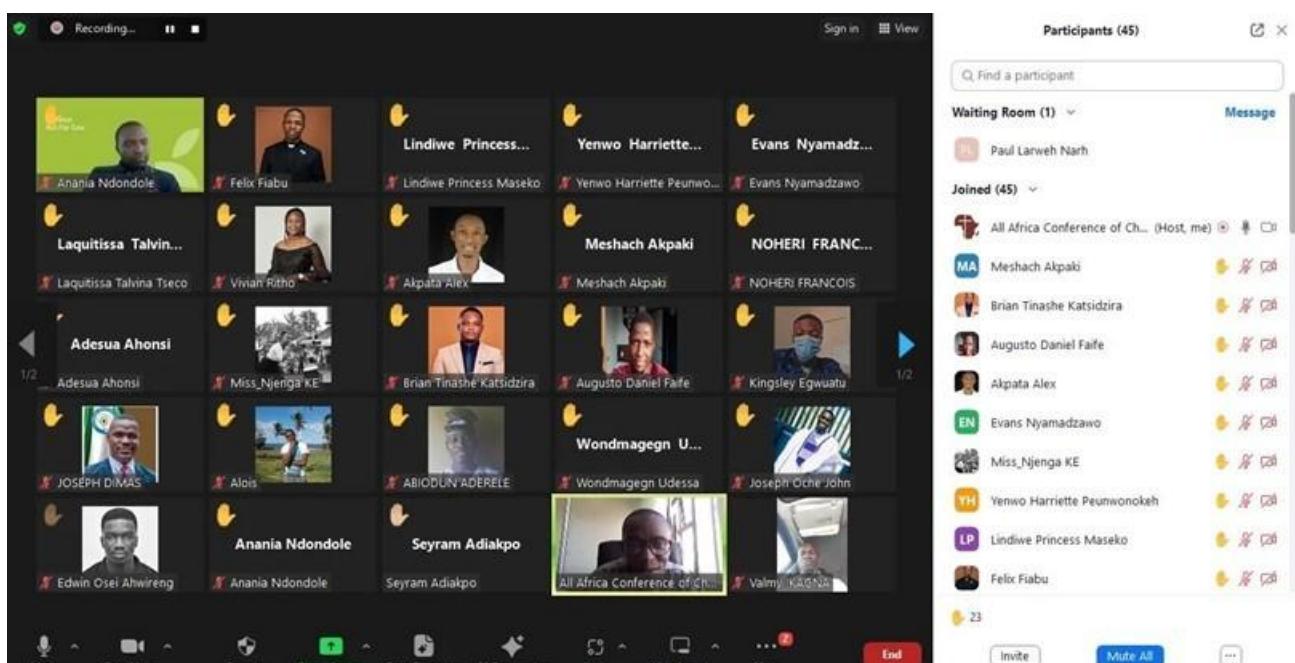
This project launched in 2024 was implemented through various youth activities in the continent. To offer leadership to the campaign, a technical working group of six youth from AACC member churches was established to work with the staff in coordinating the campaign and the following activities were implemented.

a) Developing a Pledge of commitment against SGBV in Africa

The pledge was drafted by ten members of the Network leading in-country initiatives under the Churches Campaign against SGBV in Africa through a consultative and prayerful process. It was then discussed during the AAYN coordination meeting on 6th and 7th March 2024 and adopted for use on 7th March 2024. The pledge reads as follows:

I (say your name) pledge to honor and safeguard the dignity of every human being by avoiding, speaking against, and acting against any act of gender-based violence. In all my relationships, I shall be loving, open, honest, transparent, and desist from any form of violence. So, help me God.

After undertaking the pledge of commitment against SGBV, one is encouraged to download and complete the commitment card and keep it as a proof that they are ambassadors for Gender Justice and Equality.



Screenshot of the All Africa youth network meeting during an open discussion developing the pledge of Commitment against SGBV.

This pledge of commitment was signed in various youth gatherings in Nigeria, Gambia, Ethiopia, Congo Brazzaville, Kenya, Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique, DRC and Gabon here young people pledged and committed to shun all forms of GBV under the project's slogan: Let Love Lead: End GBV Now. Social media campaign against SGBV using animations, social media platforms and social media influencers from June till now.

b) Capacity building webinars promoting Gender Justice and Equality

AACC organized five regional webinars promoting transformative masculinities and femininities in July, August and December. The webinars equipped over 250 youth leaders with to equip participants with life giving theologies, knowledge and skills needed to promote transformative masculinities and Femininities for gender justice and equality in Africa. The webinars were facilitated by members of the All Africa Youth Network accompanied by staff from the AACC and partner organizations such as the World Council of churches (WCC) and the World Association for Christian Communicators (WACC). The topics engaged on during these webinars include, the socialization process, Gender Stereotypes and SGBV, breaking barriers to transformative masculinities and femininities, addressing tech-facilitated Gender based violence, developing and dissemination life giving theologies on Gender Justice and gender equality.

c) Churches Campaign Against GBV in Africa Grants for Youth led responses to SGBV

10 churches received grants to implement the various aspects of the churches campaign against SGBV in Africa in their respective countries. These included the; Association des Eglises Baptistes Au Rwanda (AEBR) – Rwanda, Communauté Baptiste Au Centre De L'Afrique – CBCA – DRC, Conseil Des Eglises Protestantes Du Cameroun (CEPCA) – Cameroon, Anglican Church of Kenya, Meru Diocese – Kenya, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) – Tanzania, Orthodox Church in Benin – Benin, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Synod of Livingstonia – Malawi, Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) – Namibia, Eglise Methodiste Unie De Guinee – Guinee Conakry, Anglican Diocese of Freetown - Sierra Leone. Using these grants, the youth networks and forums in these churches developed and disseminated posters creating awareness about SGBV, calling for action to hold SGBV perpetrators accountable, addressing SGBV related stigma and advocating for behavioral and attitude change in favour of gender justice and equality, and organized talk shows on radios and Television stations creating awareness about GBV, promoting transformative Masculinities and Femininities and mobilizing communities for effective actions against GBV in their communities.

d) Utilizing international holidays to Promote Gender Justice

100 AACC youth leaders in 12 countries: Tanzania, Namibia, Nigeria, Gambia, Ethiopia, Congo Brazzaville, Kenya, Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon were supported to organize in-country initiatives commemorating and celebrating international holidays in ways that create awareness about GBV, transform cultural and religious barriers to gender justice and equality, and promote transformative masculinities and femininities. These holidays included the International Women's Day, Day of the African Child, International Youth Day, and the 16 days of

Activism. Through activities, the AAYN Pledge of commitment to mobilize thousands of youth to commit to work for a GBV free Africa.



Teenage Students undertaking the pledge of Commitment to end SGBV during a school outreach organized on the international Women's Day in Kenya

e). Utilizing National Youth Gathering to Mobilize youth to Shun all forms of GBV

Between April and November 2024, the AACC physically participated in seven National youth gathering, facilitating activities that mobilized thousands of youth leaders in those gatherings to shun all forms of GBV and commit to invest their resources, energy, talents and abilities to work for an end to SGBV in Africa. These included the 111th Annual Session of the Nigerian Baptist Church (NBC) held from 19th and 23rd April 2024, the 33rd Annual Youth Conference of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (MCZ) held between 24th and 26th May 2024, the national youth camp of the Evangelical Church in Morroco held between 29th July and 3rd August 2024, the national youth congress of the Evangelical Church of Congo Brazzaville and the Church of Christ Light of the Holy Spirit in the Democratic republic of Congo, both held between 15th and 20th August 2024, the national youth leaders camp of the Methodist Church in Togo held between 4th and 7th September 2024 and the national youth Gathering of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania held between 4th and 9th September 2024.



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JTH NIGHT AT THE 111TH ANNUAL CONVENTION IN-SESSION OF THE NIGER

Brian Muyunga, AACC Executive Secretary, Youth and Rev Dr James Olawuyi addressing and praying for the Youth Understanding the Pledge of Commitment to End GBV at the Nigerian Baptist Convention National Youth Gathering (Extracted from the Video recording of the NFtV)

f.) Social media Advocacy against SGBV in Africa

With the launch of the campaign, the All Africa Youth network launched a social media campaign against SGBV that involved production of animation series addressing and transforming cultural and religious teachings, values, norms and practices that perpetuate SGBV. Four episodes of the series were produced and disseminated using Facebook, twitter, tiktok and three radio stations in Benin and Togo. Six social media influencers were involved in this campaign that also involved publishing over 10 posters with quotes from youth and church leaders mobilizing communities to embrace and promote Gender Justice and equality

2.4.2. Youth Campaign for Tax and Economic Justice

- a. **Advocacy at the Alternative Mining Indaba** The Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) is a platform that was created by Faith Based Organisations, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that are concerned with the social injustices that are prevalent and perpetual in the African Mining Industry. All Africa Youth Network participated in the 2024 AMI in Cape Town, South Africa from 5-8 February 2024 on the theme, “Energy Transition Minerals: Putting Communities First for an Inclusive Feminist Future.”



One of the AACC Youth delegates, Rev. Jacques Heyman from the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa contributing to one of the plenary sessions at the AMI.

The youth network was represented by three youth leaders from Southern Africa. These were joined by AACC’s programme executive for Ecological and Economic Justice and one church leaders from Malawi. These actively participated in the various plenary sessions and side events, voicing out faith and pan-Africa concerns on mining in Africa. Their inputs centered on promoting people-centered pathways to leverage transition minerals required for the global transition to clean energy. In two different side events, two AACC youth delegates highlighted how the global tax systems have made it difficult for mining in Africa to fully benefit the continents’ development agendas, highlighting the potential the UN Tax Convention has to help change this narrative, and the need for faith leaders to intensify efforts towards ensuring that governments accurately account for the taxes they collect. During the closing plenary, the AACC youth emphasized the need to ensure that AMI communique reflect the alignment of the program to the African Union Agenda 2063 and the SDG. At the end of the AMI, the youth participants committed to integrate creating awareness about the injustices in the mining sector, clean energy transitions and taxation into their Church youth programs.

- b. **Advocacy for Debt accountability and transparency at the 1st Preparatory meeting for the 4th International conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)**

The first Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 4th International conference on Financing for Development was convened to take stock of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development so as to inform the outcomes of the 4th International Conference for Financing for Development (FFD4) to be held in 2025. Given the importance of this process and the significant investments made by churches and faith communities towards more equitable and sustainable global development outcomes, the AACC joined the WCC, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and participated in the meeting, and thereafter host a strategy Roundtable for stakeholders from faith to consult and identify a common ecumenical strategy for collective advocacy engagements in the FfD4. During this preparatory meeting, the AACC Executive Secretary, Youth, Brian Muyunga submitted a statement on youth participation in the financing for development processes and calling for transformative reforms in the global debt architecture.



AACC Executive Secretary, Youth Submitting a statement on the global debt architecture and youth participation in the UN FFD processes during the meeting

c. Participation at the Pan-African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows

Between 23rd and 29th June 2024, one female member of AACC's All Africa Youth Network, Ms. Grace Cangy from Mauritius joined faith leaders from the NCA partners mainly from southern Africa to participate in the Pan-African Conference on illicit financial Flows in Tunis, Tunisia. Grace represented the AACC in the conversations on the UN tax Convention among other activities at the conference.



All Africa Youth Network delegate (in the middle) with the other faith-based organizations delegates at the conference.

d. Advocating for the UN Tax Convention at the SADC Peoples Summit

AACC participated in the 44th SADC People's Summit in Harare, through seven youth leaders from churches in Southern Africa, and co-organizing two side events on economic justice particularly on Natural resource governance for equity and sustainable development in partnership with Zimbabwe Council of Churches and other partners. This summit was held under the theme; "Reclaiming SADC for people's development; Building people power, Voice and Agency towards Democracy and inclusion". During the summit, the AACC delegates Youth leaders to engaged in constructive dialogues with other faith actors and Civil Society leaders on advancing advocacy for just tax systems and structures within the SADC region. They stressed the significance of the UN tax convention, urging CSOs and FBOs to create awareness on the impact of unjust taxation systems and enlighten people in their constituencies about the need and importance of the UN tax convention. In their various submissions, the young people successfully linked economic justice and natural resource governance to the values of Pan-Africanism and Ubuntu. They highlighted the prevalence of lucrative tax incentives that fuel tax inequalities, ultimately leading to detrimental ripple effects on service provisions and contributing to a cycle of poverty that persists across generations, severely impacting the majority of our citizens.



AACC delegates at the 2024 SADC People's Summit



Captured AACC youths Grace Mathole (R) and Patricia Matemera (I) making contributions during the plenary session.

2.4.3. Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Sustainable Population Growth

a). Training of Trainers on Promoting SRHR and Sustainable Population growth for Youth leaders in Zambia The twenty-four youth leaders who participated in the training came from six AACC member churches in Zambia: United church of Zambia, Salvation Army, Reformed Church in Zambia, Anglican Church, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church and the Christian Council of Zambia. The training provided an opportunity to equip participants with skills, and knowledge of developing and using contextual Bible to address SRHR challenges and promote sustainable families for sustainable development in Africa. The training enabled the participants to understand the principals of CBS, appreciate its ability to open spaces for conversations on SRHR and Population growth challenges, and facilitate the creation of a safe space for dialogue, creating awareness, and inspiring transformative actions to challenges to contemporary SRHR and Population Growth challenges. The training also empowered the participants learn the art of identifying SRHR challenges and their real causes, judge the

effectiveness of the various responses to SRHR and Population growth issues in the bible and in contemporary society. Additionally, the process enabled participants understand how religion plays out as a major social determinant of the quality of sexual and reproductive health among individuals and communities, the extent of protection of sexual and Reproductive health rights, and population growth.



Some of the participants attending to group assignments during the training

b). Zambian Youth leaders led local initiatives promoting SRHR and Sustainable Population Growth

After the training of trainers on promoting sexual and reproductive health and Rights (SRHR) and Sustainable population growth held in May 2024 in Zambia, three beneficiaries began laying strategies to enable them utilize the skills and knowledge gained from the training to transform cultural and religious norms, values and practices that undermine the quality of Sexual and Reproductive health and perpetuate the abuse of sexual and reproductive health

rights among youth in Zambian communities. The three-youth worked together to organize a series of peer-to-peers dialogues on SRHR in their local churches. The first dialogue took place on 15th September 2024 at the Misisi compound RCZ. They used contextual bible studies to help participants understand the role of SRHR and sustainable families in promoting holistic health and healing, advocate for health seeking habits, and encourage them to transform cultural and religious values, attitudes and norms that endanger human dignity and quality of life.



(Some of the participants during the dialogue at the Misisi compound RCZ on 15th September 2024, Photos by Clement Dalitso Phiri)

In November 2024, the Reformed Church in Zambia (RCZ) Chawama Congregation hosted an adolescent's dialogue on Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for 55 enthusiastic youth, comprising 35 ladies and 20 gentlemen. Held in the heart of Chawama Compound, a high-density area in Lusaka with approximately 150,000 residents, this dialogue addressed issues of unplanned pregnancies and risky sexual practices. Trainers were two youth leaders who benefited from AACC's training of trainers on promoting SRHR and Sustainable families for sustainable development and these equipped participants with essential knowledge on accessing SRHR services. Despite time constraints, engagement was remarkable. Participants demonstrated a clear understanding of SRHR, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and Gender Norms. The positive response sparked requests for additional training programs.



Youth leaders facilitating the

C. Training of Trainers on Promoting SRHR and Sustainable Population growth for Youth leaders in Sierra Leone

Similar to Zambia, AACC held another training of trainers' workshop on promoting SRHR and Sustainable Population Growth for 20 youth leaders in Sierra Leone. The training was hosted by the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone and facilitated by the AACC Executive Youth Secretary, Brian Muyunga. This particular training workshop engaged participants in developing and discussing contextual bible studies on Menstrual hygiene, body autonomy, human rights, family planning, reproductive health, and GBV.



Some of the participants during group discussions and presentations

2.4.4. Advancing the Youth Campaign for Active Citizenship and Pan-Africanism on the theme, 'Africa: My Home. My Future.'

a). Youth engagement on Digitalization and Sustainable Development in Africa

To mark the 2024 International Youth Day, whose theme was, 'From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development' the AACC organized a youth leaders' workshop on digitalization and sustainable development within the context the All Africa Youth Congress (AAYC) campaign on the theme, Africa: My Home. My Future. The workshop aimed at inspiring the youth leaders to offer the ethical leadership needed for the ongoing digital transformation of Africa and the world at large. The workshop was held at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Botswana on 11th and 12th August 2024. The event was hosted by the Botswana council of churches with the following specific objectives

1. Interrogate the instrumental role of digitalization in Africa's sustainable development
2. Showcase diverse African youth-led and focused digital solutions and innovations at the global and national levels that contribute to sustainable development.
3. Examine the role of religion in developing and implementing policies that ensure safety in digital spaces



Botswana Council of Churches General secretary opening the celebration

The first day of the event featured an intergenerational dialogue on the role of digitalization in Christian mission and sustainable development. One hundred people (40 elders and 60 youth leaders in Botswana participated in the dialogue. In small groups of ten people, the participants exchanged experiences the impact of digitalization and technological advancements in their day to day lives and the church in Africa.

The second day of the celebration featured a capacity strengthening workshop for the 40 youth leaders on maximizing digitalization and technological advancements for mission and sustainable development in Africa. The participants also explored ways through which they can engage in national and regional advocacy for the development and implementation of policies in favor of life flourishing technological advancements and digital transition. At the end of the event, the participants committed to organise and facilitate similar conversations with youth groups in their local church communities to promote the safe use of digitalisation and technology to advance Christian mission, ecumenism and sustainable development.



AACC Executive Youth Secretary Facilitating a session



Group leaders sharing feedback from their group discussions

b). Youth Leaders Training on Ethical Leadership for Active Citizenship

This took place between 20th and 22nd April 2024 at the Desmond Tutu Conference Center, Nairobi Kenya. 25 youth leaders from AACC member Churches in Kenya participated in the training that aimed at empowering them to serve as transformative leaders embodying the

values of servant leadership and contributing to the sustainability of Africa's ecumenical movement and the implementation of the Agenda 2063. During this training, ten participants had an opportunity to engage with the AACC staff on ways of addressing ethical dilemmas. Participants developed action plans that they would implement in a period of 12 months on promoting active citizenship and Ethical leadership in Kenya.



Group Photo of the Participants

c). Monthly Ecumenical Prayer meetings

Throughout the year, the All Africa Youth Network members met once every monthly for a monthly ecumenical prayer fellowship that featured theological discussions on the Various aspects of sustainable development as they worshipped and prayed together in expression of ecumenical solidarity. These devotions took place on every first Friday of the Month and were run on the theme of AACC's 12th General Assembly, 'The love of Christ Compels

Us.' Some of the topics featured in this year prayer meetings included Pan-Africanism, health and healing, drug and substance abuse, creation care, peacebuilding, nurturing faith, among others.



Rev Tichoana, A youth Leader from Zimbabwe delivering a sermon during the Monthly devotion

2.4.5. Deepening the culture of peace in Africa

a). Capacity strengthening workshop on Advancing advocacy for the implementation of the UNSCR 2250 on youth peace and security



Rev Sylvestre Bizimana, General Secretary for Council of Churches Burundi opening the training

Established in 2021, the interfaith youth Forum in Burundi has been advocating for peace and unity in urban and rural communities in Burundi. To strengthen the forum's capacity to promote social cohesion and to align its peacebuilding efforts with the Global and regional peacebuilding Agenda, a three-day capacity-building workshop for the forum was held from 16th – 20th April 2024. The training took place at city hotel, Bujumbura. 22 youth leaders participated in the training and 4 of these were from Sudan, Kenya, and Ethiopia, bringing experiences and lessons learned from their peacebuilding efforts in their local contexts into the training. The facilitators led the participants into interrogating the role of the UNSCR 1325 and 2250 in youth faith-based advocacy for peace. At the end of the training, the interfaith Youth Network in Burundi developed a draft activity plan to implement within one year and the AACC committed to support their implementation of the plan through all possible ways.



Workshop Participants during a session



Group Discussions on conflict resolution

c). Interfaith youth networks in Uganda and Burundi supported to promote social cohesion

The AACC supported the Inter-religious council of Uganda and Christian Council Burundi Interfaith youth networks to initiate and implement activities aimed at promoting social

cohesion and advance the implementation of the UNSCR 2250 resolution on Youth Peace and Security. With such support, the interfaith youth forum in Burundi conducted a community dialogue on peaceful co-existence and promoting social justice in December 2024. The dialogue was accompanied by team building games and fun activities such as football, netball and cultural dance exhibitions with a focus on ‘accelerating social cohesion.’ 30 youth participated in the dialogue and 300 in the games and fun activities. The young people were encouraged to utilize their talents in music, sports and media to be peace makers and popularize the UNSCR 2250 Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security and to strengthen social bonds that strengthen social cohesion in their country.



Burundi interfaith youth Forum members pose for a group photo as they out for the community dialogue



Friendly Football match during the community dialogue in Bujumbura

On the other hand, the youth Interfaith Network of Uganda held an intergenerational consultation with the conveners of the National Peace Pledge of the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU), International Republican Institute (IRI), and the National Consultative Forum for political Parties and political organizations in Uganda (NCF)—at the IRCU Secretariat on the role of the National peace pledge in advancing the implementations of the UNSCR 2250 in Uganda. This took place on 17th and 20th December 2025. Much as the consultation met in person on 17th December, the session on 20th December was held via zoom. This meeting held on 17th December 2024 also served as an opportunity to formalize YINU’s leadership role in monitoring adherence to the National Peace Pledge signed on October 25, 2024, as Uganda prepares for the 2026 General Elections. Signed on 25 October 2024, the National Peace Pledge is a commitment by Uganda’s political, religious, and civil society leaders to ensure peaceful elections. YINU monitors adherence to the pledge and leverages its structure and partnerships to promote social cohesion and prevent violence.



Participants in the IRCU Boardroom for the intergenerational consultation on 17th December 2025.

2.5. Economic and Ecological Justice

2.5.1. Participation in the Sixth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA6)

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 6) ran from 26 February to 1 March 2024 at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) head offices in Nairobi. AACC participated through the Secretariat and three AFAN-CJ members from Kenya. The delegation attended several side sessions. The AFAN-CJ members participated as speakers at the side event that AACC held in collaboration with the African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL) and others. The participation allowed AACC to be visible at key international strategic platforms and share its perspectives on creation care. The event also connected AACC to new partners such as the ACRL for future collaborations on climate justice initiatives.

2.5.2. AACC Climate Justice Advocacy and Missional Engagements

The AFAN-CJ held productive engagement meetings in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20 to 21 March 2024. The AFAN-CJ met with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Ethiopian Minister of Environment, given Ethiopia's current chairmanship of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). The delegation also engaged the Civil Society Forum in Ethiopia. Proposals were made for strategic collaboration between the AFAN-CJ and the AUC within the existing AACC-AUC cooperation framework. Additionally, a similar framework between the Ethiopian Ministry of Environment and the AFAN-CJ (Ethiopia Chapter) was suggested.



AFAN-CJ Members After the Meeting with the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa

2.5.3. Capacity Strengthening and Policy Engagement on Public Debt

In 2024, a research on public debt in Tanzania was carried out and awareness raising on the challenges of public debt and corruption done in Zambia. Additionally, AACC collaborated with the Jubilee USA Network on engaging Africa Based Faith Institutions on public debt. The major highlights of the project with Jubilee USA Network included the sustained advocacy on public debt by faith actors following the development of a continental strategy in Kigali, Rwanda from 18 to 19 July 2024. The strategy became the advocacy tool for AACC in its participation in key engagement processes that involved strategic stakeholders such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

2.5.4. Commemoration of World Environment Day, 5th June 2024

AACC commemorated the day in different countries including Kenya, Zambia and Nigeria with locally-led initiatives with technical support from the Secretariat. Trees were planted, virtual discussions, radio and television programs that featured AFAN-CJ members and culminated with a partnership event with the Government of Kenya through Nairobi County that brought over 50 organizations.

2.5.5. Continental AFAN-CJ Round Table

Between 27th and 29th August, AACC organized a continental review meeting on faith advocacy and activism for climate justice in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was attended by 82 (26 women and 15 youths) delegates including AFAN-CJ members and other key stakeholders (Government representatives, Civil society, Schools, and Multi-lateral institutions), country-level initiatives and 2025 plans were reviewed and key messages for AMCEN and COP29 were developed.



Continental AFAN-CJ Round Table

2.5.6. Participation in Pre-AMCEM Meetings, 30 August - 3 September 2024, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

AACC participated in the 12th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) through the AFAN-CJ members. The AFAN-CJ aspirations were captured in the final CCDA statement submitted to the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) held in the same country.

2.5.7. Support to Local Initiatives

These were in form of small financial support given to Malawi; Tanzania; Togo; Nigeria; Congo; and Botswana. The local initiatives supported were focused on stakeholder engagement; awareness raising; capacity strengthening; and policy advocacy. The major highlight was in Congo where an AFAN-CJ member (a youth) convened a meeting of over 300 youths to reflect on the effects of climate change. A local AFAN-CJ chapter was created.

2.5.8. Anti-Corruption Dialogue, 9-11 July 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya

The Africa Anti-Corruption Commemoration dialogue was organized in partnership with AU Advisory Board Against Corruption and was attended by 17 Economic Justice Champions from 6 countries with presentations from expert academics, CSOs, government officials and the AUABC. Champions were challenged to use the “whistleblowing mechanisms” in their countries to fight corruption.

2.5.9. Continental Consultative Meeting on Public Debt and Accountability, 23-25 July 2024, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

This brought together AACC member churches from 20 countries, government officials from Tanzania, parliamentarians, academic institutions, media, civil society and anti-corruption institutions who participated in this meeting which affirmed the resolutions of the above Kigali meeting to lobby for debts cancellation by 2025.

2.5.10. Support to Local Initiatives on Public Debt Management

Financial and technical support was given to Burundi and Namibia to engage stakeholders on public debt management and corruption. In Namibia, a position paper was developed by the churches for policy engagement on national debt, while In Burundi, a Debt Advocacy Committee was formed to engage with key stakeholders on national debt.

2.6. Peace in Africa

Activities implemented under this thematic are during the period under review were as follows: -

2.6.1. Deepening partnership and accompaniment for peace in South Sudan

The AACC participated in the annual global Ecumenical Network for South Sudan meeting of all partners accompanying churches and people of South Sudan. The gathering took place at DTCC in Nairobi, Kenya from 31 Jan - 2 Feb 2024. Thirty-six (36) persons representing the Ecumenical Network for South Sudan, church leaders and staff of Council attended the meeting. The meeting reflected on the role of the church during the transition period in South Sudan – and deliberated on how the Council and ENSS can be more useful to the people of South Sudan at this critical time. The meeting focused on strengthening the institution mechanisms of the church as well as the secretariat’s advocacy programmes and strategies for authentic prophetic ministry of the church and Council amidst increasing contextual socio-political and economic challenges of the country.

2.6.2. Signing of an MoU with the International Conference on The Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)

On 14th March 2024, The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and the International Conference on The Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) signed an MoU to solidify their partnership in peace and reconciliation, democracy and good governance, sustainable population, and development, economic stewardship and accountable management, climate change and ecological stewardship and other crosscutting issues

like gender, women and youth development. This took place at the AACC headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.



Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki and Ambassador João Samuel CAHOLO Signing of the MoU by the leadership of AACC and ICGLR

2.6.3. Engagement with church leaders in Burundi for peace in the Great Lakes Region

On March 26, the AACC team had fruitful engagements with 16 church leaders from the AACC and Burundi Council member churches to enhance their commitment to building peace in the region in general and Burundi in particular. A presentation on the socio-political landscape in the region was made to help participants understand their own context. The church leaders had ample time to exchange on the issues in the region and came up with key issues needing attention.



Church leaders at the consultation, City Hill Hotel, Bujumbura, March 26, 2024

2.6.4. Engagement with staff of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)

On March 27, an AACC team, accompanied by two staff of the council of churches in Burundi was received at the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes region. The ICGLR team was led by the Deputy Executive Secretary, HE Ambassador Yasir, with each of the Directors present gave brief presentations of their programmatic work. The AACC staff also presented their work undertaken by AACC based on its new 2024-2028 strategy. The presentations created space for in-depth conversation on the

operationalization of the signed MOU. Thereafter, a joint task force was constituted to develop a operational plan for 2024/25.



Photo of the team, at ICCLR offices in Bujumbura-Burundi, March 27, 2024

2.6.5. Joint Ecumenical Solidarity visit by AACC and other Ecumenical Partners to Sudan

The joint ecumenical solidarity visit is to reaffirm the long-standing commitment of the ecumenical family to accompany the churches and people of Sudan and encourage them to stand firm and keep their prophetic voice, in the face of the current political challenges. A delegation of fifteen church personalities/Eminent persons arrived in Port Sudan, in Sudan on April 18 and met with different stakeholders namely: church leaders, women, youth, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Head of the Sovereign Council of the Republic of Sudan. They also visited Act Alliance members present on the ground and actively involved in peacebuilding and humanitarian aid like Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). The meetings looked at the possibility of finding lasting solutions to the current political situation for peace, stability, and development in Sudan. The message of the delegation to the churches and government of Sudan was a call for an inclusive dialogue, unity, peace and justice for all the people of Sudan.

2.6.6. Retreat of key church leaders of Eswatini

From 28-29 May 2024, a retreat bringing together 10 leaders (7 men, 3 women, including 2 youth) from Eswatini was held in Kigali-Rwanda. The aim of the retreat was to build more strengthened collaboration and to develop more strategized, effective and consistent ways of being a prophetic voice as the Church in Eswatini. Using a participatory approach, the participants were briefed and discussed on the socio-political context of Eswatini. This was a fulfilment of the role of AACC, of walking alongside Churches to fulfil their missions.

2.6.7. Expanded retreat of church leaders of South Sudan, 2-5 June 2024, Mombasa, Kenya: -
AACC facilitated a retreat that brought together 27 church leaders and some staff of SSCC (21 men, 6 women) to pray, reflect and reason together towards a common goal of participatory governance and management. The retreat provided a potent space for a robust and clear discussions governance and management pathways of the Council as a Prophetic instrument of Peace, Justice and Flourishing life of the nation of the country. List of priorities for unity, confidence building, trust and systems were agreed.

2.6.8. Learning and exposure visit of South Sudan Church Leaders to some churches and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Burundi, 24-28 June 2024, Bujumbura, Burundi
Five church leaders (4 men, 1 woman) participated in a learning and exposure visit to some churches and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Burundi. They were namely from South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC), the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, the African Inland Church (AIC), Sudan Interior Church and a staff from South Sudan Council of Churches.

2.6.9. Religious leaders' capacity building on advocacy towards duty bearers in Uganda, 28-29 August 2024, Kampala, Uganda
Forum facilitated by the AACC, brought together forty-five religious' leaders from the Interreligious Council of Uganda met at Jevine Hotel in Kampala in a forum that allowed them to discuss on issues affecting their country as regards to social cohesion and peace. The overall goal of the session was to strengthen understanding of issues affecting society and acquired skills and competencies in advocacy to contribute to peace and social cohesion.

2.6.10. ENSS-Africa Hub Ecumenical Solidarity visit to Juba- South Sudan, 18-23 September 2024, Juba, South Sudan
AACC as the Convener led 13 representatives of the ENSS-Africa Hub that included AACC, AMECEA, Act-Alliance, FECCLAHA, Arigatou International, ACRL, the ICEA to Juba on a solidarity visit. The team held consultative meetings with some members of the SSCC BOT, ExCom, SSCC staff, representatives of the Core Group and CSOs in Juba on diverse issues.

2.6.11. Peace mission and election observation in Mozambique
Hosted by the Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM), the AACC deployed a team of five International Ecumenical election observers from Zimbabwe, Eswatini, South Africa, Tanzania and Burundi. Led by Bishop Ignatios Makunde, President of Zimbabwe Council of Churches, the team worked with and was accompanied by twenty local observers. A preliminary report of the observations and recommendations was submitted to the CCM to be shared with Electoral Body.



Group photo of AACC Peace mission and election observation in Mozambique

2.7. Advocacy and The African Union /African Union Office

The following activities and advocacy engagements were undertaken under this thematic area namely: -

2.7.1. Representation of Faith-Based Organization's Voice

a) Faith based organizations facing the African Union Commission

The AACC actively engaged in a network of FBOs engaging the African Union, especially those with physically presence in Addis Ababa, among these being with the United Religions Initiative Africa office, the Baha'i International Community Addis Ababa Office (BIC AAO), the SECAM Liaison Officer to the African Union, World Vision International - African Union Liaison Office, the Latter-day Saint Charities External and Public Affairs Office; and Open Doors International Africa Advocacy Office. Bilateral meetings took place at the AACC offices as well as with other AUC directorates such as the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO), African Governance Architecture – African Peace and Security Architecture (AGA APSA).

b) Women engagement with East Africa Community and East Africa Legislative Assembly

AACC facilitated women members of CSOs and FBOs to engage with the East Africa Community (EAC) secretariat and East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) senior leadership in Arusha, Tanzania, including the women's caucus, in order to influence regional policy on women, peace, and security. The aim of this engagement was to increase women's voices in policy and decision-making, strengthen CSOs and FBOs' engagement with the EALA, increase awareness about the EALA's mandate, facilitate dialogue on key issues affecting women, advocate for increased women's representation and participation in EALA structures, and present a petition/call for action with key asks.

c) South Sudan's Preparedness for the 2024 Upcoming Elections

AACC organized a webinar to address Sudan's contemporary issues and its preparedness for elections scheduled for the end of 2024. The webinar brought together stakeholders such as the IGAD's - Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism, the African Union Peace and Security department – Panel of the Wise, CSOs and FBOs (including the South Sudan Council of Churches) to discuss challenges to be confronted to ensure peaceful, credible, and inclusive elections in South Sudan. It was a great opportunity for CSOs and FBOs to be able to speak directly to both IGAD and AU on the realities on the ground. The webinar helped AU and IGAD to deepen their understanding of pertinent issues in South Sudan – as it prepares for elections.

d) Addis Ababa Advocacy Days

On 02 & 03 October 2024, the Salama Hub project/consortium, being implemented by the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) successfully met with the Embassies of Germany, Deputy Permanent Representative to the African Union His Excellency David Schwake, and also with Turkey Ambassador to Ethiopia, H.E Ambassador Berk BARAN. On 21 October, they met the IGAD Permanent Representative to the African Union H.E. Mme Maureen Achieng. On 23 October, AACC and AFSC also met staff in the office of the USAID representative in the office of the U.S. mission to the African Union (USAU) – H.E. Christian La Peitra Fung. The mission was to advocate for increased support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the Horn of Africa using nonviolent approaches and non-sale of arms.

2.7.2. Engage with Agenda 2063

a) MoU with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Centre: The AACC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Center to build the capacity of civil society and faith- based organizations on issues relating to democracy, elections, governance and human rights in Africa. One of the activities will be to provide training and equip faith- based organizations with the requisite skills in advocacy to enhance their engagement at the



national, regional and continental level. The signing took place on 01 February 2024 at the KAIPTC in Accra, Ghana. Implementation of the MoU will contribute to AACC's work on Aspirations 3, 4 & 6 of Agenda 2063.

The AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, and the Kofi Annan International Peace Training Centre (KAIPTC), Commandant Major General Richard Addo Gyane during the signing of the MOU

b) Renewal of MoU with the Institute of Peace and Security Studies (IPSS)

On 16 May 2024, the IPSS and AACC completed the signing of a renewed MoU. Areas of cooperation include: Joint evidence-based research, peace & security, governance, human rights, justice and dignity; briefing the African Union, its bodies and organs and their stakeholders



Occasion of celebrating the MoU signed between the AACC and IPSS

c) Partnership with AU ECOSOCC for 2024 Citizens Forum

The AACC collaborated with the Africa Union ECOSOCC to organize the 2024 Citizens Forum which was held in Accra, Ghana from 17th to 19th July, 2024. The engagement brought together the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, Military Institutions, Legislature, Judiciary, Civil Society Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, Political Leaders. The conversations included discussions on the role of faith -based organizations in promoting transparency and trust between citizens and state institutions to ensure good governance and enhance rule of law. AACC Vice President, Rt. Rev Godson Lawson took part in the panel discussions. An award was presented to the AACC in recognition of its work with the Africa Union in promoting democracy and good governance on the African continent. Additionally, AACC together with AU CIDO and the World Council of Churches held a side event on the Role of Faith Leaders in Promoting Peace Democracy and Institutional Resilience. The side event explored the potential of faith leaders as agents of positive change in promoting peace, democracy and institutional resilience in Africa; fostered dialogue on the role of faith-based organizations in supporting peace processes and democratic governance; Identified challenges and opportunities for collaboration between faith leaders, civil society, and policymakers in strengthening democratic institutions.



In session: AACC, WCC & AU CIDO Side Event on the Role of Faith leaders in Promoting Peace, Democracy & Institutional Resilience at the 2024 ECOSOCC Citizens Forum in Accra, Ghana

d) Participation in the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, (Maputo Protocol)

This aimed at evaluating the steps taken by AU Member States on a legal, policy and practical level to implement the protocol 20 years after its adoption. Distinctively, it analysed the reservations entered in line with the national laws of the AU Member States and its applicability since the adoption of the Protocol. In addition, it analysed the key challenges and obstacles hindering the effective implementation of the Maputo Protocol in different African contexts and identify the role of governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholder in the implementation of the protocol.

2.7.3. Capacities Strengthening

a) Universal Periodic Review Human Rights Mechanism

AACC organized a training for member churches on the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as a human right monitoring mechanism in Africa. The objective was to equip and enhance the capacity of the AACC and its member churches in the UPR Process; and on human rights mechanisms to enhance evidence -based advocacy at the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights. The event took place on 20th – 23rd February 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

b) Engagement with Young People on Democracy and Governance in Africa: AACC consultation with young people from the ECOWAS region.

This consultation brought together young people across the ECOWAS region, CSOs, political leaders to discuss matters relating to democratization, governance, and/or the promotion and protection of human rights in the African Continent as well as the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance by AU Member States. The consultation also explored the role of the Youth in strengthening democracy.

2.7.4. Engaging Global and Continental Development Agendas

a) The Summit of the Future 2024

The AACC engaged with the processes of the United Nations Summit for the future, and made submissions/comments to the “Pact for the Future Zero Draft”, directly on the UN Website; and through the AU ECOSOCC secretariat. AACC also participated in a virtual “Continental Dialogue on the Summit of the Future” which was organized by AU ECOSOCC, and also submitted its comments to the draft Pact for the Future Zero draft.

b) Interfaith capacity-strengthening Workshop on Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding

AACC through the Horn of Africa/Salama Hub Project together with the Youth department organized two days of training for Youth from the Horn of Africa and Burundi to equip the interfaith youth leaders with knowledge and skills to promote social cohesion and peacebuilding efforts in their communities. The training has to

foster interfaith collaboration among the youth leaders in promoting social cohesion and deepening the culture of peace in their communities and to support the youth leaders, develop and execute action plans that advance the implementation for UNSCR 1325 and 2250.

c) Addis Forum- High-Level National Youth Forum on Peace-Building and Environment conservation August 22-24, 2024 Addis Ababa

The High-Level Addis Forum supported by the AACC and other stakeholders brought together over 250 Ethiopian youth leaders, policymakers, elders, and stakeholders to address pressing challenges under the theme "Youth Bridging Divides and Building Sustainable Peace towards a Greener Future." The Addis Ababa office participated in two of the panel discussions and highlighted the importance of youth engagement in global initiatives, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063. AACC also organized a panel discussion on Countering Hate Speech and Interfaith Dialogue.

d) Participation in African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights 81st Session

AACC participated in the 81st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights which took place in Banjul, Gambia between October 13 to 23, 2024. The AACC participated in the deliberations of the Special Interest Group on Migration where it presented the submissions highlighting the urgent need by the African Commission on Human and Peoples to address the root causes of irregular migration, human trafficking and modern- day slavery. The AACC also participated in the deliberations of the Special Interest Group on Economic Challenges focusing on Youth Employment and Poverty.

e) Study on Transitional Justice (TJ) Mechanisms in the Horn of Africa

AACC through the Salama Hub project conducted a study on Transitional Justice Mechanisms in the Horn of Africa, focusing on the extent to which AU member states have adhered to the African Union's Transitional Justice Policy adopted in February 2019. The study has investigated the models used by countries in the Horn of Africa to address the legacies of past conflicts, as well as the challenges faced and potential ways forward. The findings of this comparative analysis will be used for policy advocacy.

f) Women Peace and Security (WPS) Regional Stakeholders' Dialogue/Pre-Tana Forum

On 04 – 05 September, 2024. Lusaka, Zambia. AACC engaged with the Pre-Tana WPS Regional Multi-Stakeholders' Dialogue which focused on the past, present and future of the Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. AACC was on a roundtable panel discussion on “Practical recommendations and way forwards to create a

multilateral system that is gender-responsive and inclusion of women becomes a widely accepted and practiced culture.”

g) UN University of Peace (UPeace)

On 03 October, 2024. The AACC Liaison Office to the African Union facilitated a virtual three hours session on “The prohibition of Hate Speech”, on a session of the UPeace program on “Peaceful Coexistence: Reinforcing Peace, Human Rights and Development”. AACC mainly centered on the AACC Anti-Hate Speech policy brief, research and international law relating to Hate Speech

h) Untold Journey Youth Series Episode 1

In August 2024, The AACC Horn of Africa Peace Project released the first episode of the series of untold journeys of youth in accompanying peace processes in the Horn of Africa.

i) International Peace Day Commemoration

On 25th September, the Horn of Africa Peace project together with America Friends Services Committee and stakeholders in Ethiopia which included the Ministry of Peace, the United Religions Initiative (URI) commemorated International Peace Day in Addis Ababa. The commemorations explored ways to foster an inclusive approach to sustainable peace in the Horn of Africa.

j) Engagement of young people in the East and Southern Africa on Hate Speech at Consultation on the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, Kigali, Rwanda 28th -31st May, 2024

At this event HOA project organized a panel discussion that brought together group of experts to explore the critical issue of countering hate speech and promoting democratic values, the impact of hate speech on individuals and communities, discuss strategies for mitigating its spread, and explore ways to promote inclusivity and respect online and offline.

k) Policy Dialogue on Women’s Rights in Armed Conflict Affected Areas: The Case of Women’s Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) Rights in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – July 25th

The policy dialogue was framed within the research conducted by two Ethiopian Human Rights organizations and funded through the Horn of Africa Peace Project of the AACC. The research analyzed the implications of the political and security risks and challenges including socio-cultural barriers faced by women, in terms of their HLP rights in Tigray during, and post-conflict. Based on that the AACC, AFSC and IPSS have produced a policy brief for advocacy engagements.



Group photo: Policy Dialogue participants

2.8. Regional Office Lomé (ROL)

During the year 2024, the AACC Regional Office in Lomé effectively contributed to the fight against the increasing rates of GBV, irregular migration, human trafficking, and modern slavery in Africa, by professionally organizing consultations on these various issues. The Regional Office in Lomé also participated in improving the situation of victims of GBV by aiding support centers for victims of GBV and providing training on the importance psychosocial support for survivors of human trafficking. Like any organization that, regardless of its size, needs at some point to take stock of all the activities carried out during a given period, the Regional Office in Lomé, through this report, is reviewing its activities carried out from March to October 2024 as well as looking at what is still yet to be accomplished before the end of the year. In total, the Lomé regional office organized and took part in several activities and significant progress has been noted during the above-mentioned period.

2.8.1. Activities Related to GBV

a) Consultation on addressing SGBV in Guinea



A group photo of some of the participants with the AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki

The ROL in partnership with the United Methodist Church of Guinea organized a consultation from May 21 - 23, 2024, at the Riviera Hotel in Taouya, in Conakry on the theme: "Strengthening resilience against the rise of GBV in Guinea". During the event, the report given by OPROGEM (The Office for the Protection of Gender, Children and Morals) demonstrated that

despite the existence of an institutional framework and legal provisions to deal with the phenomenon, GBV is still on the rise in the country, especially in the rural areas. Reasons being that religions are still holding on very tightly to some of these practices which to the leaders uphold moral values. Thus, the objective of this workshop which was to bring

religious leaders together and have experts in the field of GBV make an evidence-based demonstration and give explanation on the harm of GBV on human beings and how dehumanizing it is as it also deprives the individual of his/her dignity. The expected result which among others was to prompt them to action by supporting OPROGEM in its action was achieved with the religious leaders vowing to work hand in hands with all concerned parties and stakeholders in the fight against GBV. It should also be noted that the AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki was also part of the consultation and was very much appreciated by the head of OPROGEM, Police Division Commissioner Amara Sylla who commended the initiative of the AACC and demanded for frequent action of such nature by the AACC for an efficient action against the phenomenon. Also, for effective action, an AACC male champions platform for gender justice was established.

b) Interreligious consultation on ending GBV in Gabon



A group photo of GS with the male

In Libreville, Gabon an interreligious consultation was held, and it brought together 30 church leaders, imams, traditional leaders, government officials, CSOs, women and youth. The event was a great success and took place at the right time. Government officials who were able to participate found the initiative very inspiring and even wished that AACC would accompany them in the process of decentralizing support centers across

the country, since AACC was able to bring all communities together for a conversation on how to counter the rise of GBV in the country. Following the consultation, an AACC platform for male champions for gender justice was set up with a specific mandate of collaborating with existing NGOs, government structures dealing with the issue and different religious communities. Also, the AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki in his closing remarks reiterated the AACC's unwavering commitment to supporting and accompanying all those involved in the fight against gender-based violence in Gabon and Africa. He therefore urged participants especially the male champions to pursue the collective dynamic, of being agents of change in their respective communities, and to work together for a Gabon where everyone can live in safety and dignity. Dr Fidon continued saying that the commitments made today must be translated into concrete, sustainable action. Together, we can make a difference and build a safer, more equitable future for all.

2.8.2. Activities Related to Migration, Trafficking in Persons and Modern Slavery

a) Southern Africa consultation

Regional consultations was organized the Southern Africa regional at the Kentucky Hotel, Hatfield, Harare, Zimbabwe, from 10th - 13th June 2024. The event brought together 30 church leaders, women and youth leaders as well as government duty bearers and CSOs working in the field of migration from across the Southern Africa region to reflect on the phenomenon of migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery in the region. The

consultative meeting enabled participants from AACC members churches and Council of Churches in the Southern Africa region, the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), academia, civil society organizations, non-state actors and policy makers to actively engage in open but in-depth conversations that focused on key thematic questions on the complexities that underpin our understanding of migration as a concept and its links to human trafficking and modern slavery. The objective of the consultation was to gather data/facts on migration and its effects in the region, for evidence-based advocacy and to enable religious actors to have a good understanding of the phenomenon and its complexities so that the church/religious community can be more involved in the management of migration. The consultation was concluded by the production of a final communiqué with recommendations to each stakeholder that has a significant role to play in the fight against the issues that were discussed.

b) Commemoration of the international day against trafficking in persons

On 31st July this year, Compassion International Togo (CITG) and the Regional Office Lomé jointly marked the international day against trafficking in persons, with a day workshop that brought together 34000 people composed of CITG's staff, AACC's staff, church leaders and young people from CITG's project. The event aimed at raising and encouraging collective and individual awareness on the issue of trafficking in persons especially children and young people; informing and educating on national and international texts that protect against trafficking in persons; suggesting and/or implementing appropriate actions to improve the living conditions of vulnerable persons at risk of trafficking (children, youth and women). The theme of the celebration was, let us leave no child behind in the fight against human trafficking and as such 3 different groups benefited from the shared knowledge during the conference: CITG staff and FCP stakeholders (leaders, workers, volunteers and youths) and community child protection stakeholders.

c) Step down engagement on psychosocial support-Nigeria

Safeguarding human dignity is one of the thematic areas that the AACC's current strategy 2024-2028; and under this thematic, we are dealing with migration. In that, the ROL has been collecting stories /experiences shared by the survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery. And, from the sharing, it is very clear that our people go through so much horror that they came back very traumatized. So, there is need to equip the AACC member church leaders so as to be able to provide psychosocial support. Hence from 12th -15th August 2024, the AACC with local partners coordinated by the Symbol of Hope Nigeria gathered Christians and Muslims religious leaders to reflect on responding through psychosocial support to survivors of irregular migration and human trafficking.

d). All Africa Youth Consultation on migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery

This youth consultation helped to rekindle the sense of African patriotism among the continent's youth, inspiring them to see Africa as their homeland and future. This crucial gathering addressed the pressing challenges of migration, human trafficking and modern

slavery, which continue to undermine the aspirations of African youth. The consultation brought together 40 dynamic youth leaders from the AACC member churches across the continent, as well as key stakeholders including civil society organizations (CSOs), faith-based organizations, the diaspora and government representatives from across the region to address critical challenges facing African youth. The discussions underscored the urgency of addressing GBV, promoting African patriotism and safeguarding human dignity. Through personal testimonies, expert presentations and collaborative planning, participants were equipped with concrete solutions to address migration risks and modern slavery. The development of a comprehensive action plan with 5 youth nominated to form the Task Working Group, based on the insights provided by participants, is one of the key outcomes of the event and paves the way for future advocacy efforts.

e). High level consultation on migration, trafficking in persons and modern slavery

From 7 to 11 October, 50 Church leaders and General Secretaries of Churches or Church Councils, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the field of migration, experts from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), academics met in Nairobi, Kenya, to



discuss the issues of Migration, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery. This high-level consultation was the conclusion of four other consultations in the regions on the same issues. The themes discussed are: the conceptualization of migration, human trafficking and Member States, bilateral agreements on migration, experiences of faith-based organizations and NGOs working with victims of human trafficking and Member States, and initiatives to address the root causes of migration, human trafficking and Member States.

2.8.3. Other Activities

a) Renewal of MoU with Compassion International Togo

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed by Compassion International Togo (CITG) and the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) was renewed to facilitate the collaboration between AACC and CITG in:

- Building Capacity of church leaders across the country in addressing issues affecting youth and families.
- Doing Advocacy and Raising Awareness on matters related to human dignity
- Resource Sharing Working in collaboration



Dr. Olivier K. AHONON director of Compassion International Togo signing the MoU in presence of Rev. Angele Dogbe.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1. Governance, Membership Development and Networking

The office of the General Secretary played a pivotal role in ensuring that the governing bodies effectively performed their functions as stipulated in the AACC's constitution as well as Standing Orders. The General Secretary provided leadership and coordinated the activities of the secretariat which handled governance, membership development, communications and networking as well as responded to various invitations from AACC's stakeholders. Activities carried out under this thematic pillar are as follows:-

3.1.1. Governance

a) The General Committee meeting

The meeting was held on 9th May 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. This was the inaugural meeting of this committee following the election of its members at the AACC 12th GA in Abuja, Nigeria. This meeting started with an orientation session on the role of governance aimed at providing clarity on their responsibilities to effectively fulfill their duties, contributing to the organization's success.

b) The Finance and Personnel Committee (FPC)

Two meetings of the FPC were held; one physical in May 2024 and one virtual on 6th November 2024.

c) The Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting

The BoT met twice in May 2024 and virtually on 17th September 2024.

3.1.2. Membership Development

In the year 2024, the General Secretary visited several AACC members in Gambia, Guinea (Conakry), Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Additionally, the General Committee admitted four new members into the AACC's fellowship, these were the: Reformed

Church of Christ For Nations (RCCN), Apostolic Orthodox Church in Benin, Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA), and the Christian Reformed Church in Nigeria.



A group photo of the leaders of AACC member churches in the Gambia with the AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki



Rev. Dr. Fidon (Left) meeting with Bishop of the Anglican Church in Sierra Leone



Rt. Rev. Henry Samuels, President of CCSL, receiving a souvenir from AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki

3.1.3. Engagements with AACC Partners and Networking

Maintaining partnerships and networks was very crucial during the period under review as the General Secretary sought to strength existing partnerships, seeking new ones as well as popularizing the AACC 2024 – 2028 Strategy. This involved fostering existing relationships and

establishing new ones by ensuring that existing partnerships remained strong and productive through regular communication, collaboration, and addressing any challenges that arose. 2024 – 2028 Strategy was shared widely by actively seeking out new partners to expand the organization's network and source new partners in support of thematic areas and organizational pillars outlined in the strategy. The General Secretary's efforts resulted in vibrant partnerships, as evidenced by the active participation of partners in significant events at the AACC. The General Secretary travelled extensively through invitations from partners, participated in their events and carried out various engagements that strengthened AACC's relationships with partners and fostered collaborations. Further, he signed MOUs and Cooperation Agreements with both funding and non-funding partners which outlined shared goals, responsibilities, and mutual benefits. These were done as follows: -

- a) **Amity Foundation** : - The General Secretary visited China in April 2024 where he met representatives from the China Christian Council, YMCA/YWCA, The Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, The Amity Foundation, The Amity Bakery, The Amity Trading and the Amity Printing Company amongst other organizations. By engaging in dialogues, identifying common interests, and exploring joint projects, AACC can leverage each other's strengths and resources to create even greater impact as well as tapping into both organisations networks to explore new opportunities to expand reach and influence.



With the Chairman, Mr. Qiu Zhonghui and the General Secretary, Ms. Ling Chunxiang, of Amity foundation in their office.

- b) **Council for World Mission (CWM)**

Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, together with the AACC President Rt. Rev. Lydia Neshangwe and the Director of Programs, Rev Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel participated in the quadrennial Assembly of the Council for World Mission (CWM) in Durban, South Africa, from 12th to 19th June 2024. The assembly run under the theme "Rise to Life: Together in Transformation."

c) **PaRD Annual Forum**

Additionally, AACC was represented at the 2024 PaRD Annual Forum, themed "Leave



No One Behind: The Well-being of the Planet and its People," took place on August 19 2024 at the Hotel Royal Tulip Brasilia Alvorada in Brasilia, Brazil. Representing the AACC General Secretariat, Ann Kioi joined over 170 members from various sectors to discuss and amplify efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The primary objectives of the forum included reviewing PaRD's activities since

the last assembly, assessing progress reports on various Workstreams and Taskforces, and discussing the strategic plan for 2022-2026, titled "Becoming More Together." These discussions aimed to ensure continued progress and collaboration towards the objectives.

d) **St. Paul's University 33rd graduation**

AACC's General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki was invited as the Guest Speaker at St. Paul's University 33rd graduation ceremony. Rev. Dr. Mwombeki addressed the



gathering under the theme, "Nexus of Faith, Science, and Technology for Global Transformation," which was a call to action and a vision for the future. Rev. Dr. Mwombeki expressed gratitude for the collaboration between St. Paul's University and the AACC, particularly through the Master of Theology in

Ecumenical Leadership program hosted at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation, Kitwe, Zambia. In his address, Rev. Dr. Mwombeki highlighted the need to embrace both science and technology as divine gifts, urging graduates to use these tools to further humanity's progress. He emphasized the celebration of human intellect as a testament to mankind being created in God's image. His speech was a call to action for the church and its followers to integrate scientific reasoning into their faith and challenge harmful beliefs that diminish Africa's global standing. Rev. Dr. Fidon also cautioned that

progress must be tempered with ethics, stating, "Do not just do anything because it is doable."

e) COP29 Summit of Religious leaders in Azerbaijan

Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki participated in the pre-COP Global Summit of Religious Leaders on Green Planet. Hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan and under the patronage of President Ilham Aliyev, this summit gathered over 300 leaders from governments, international organizations, religious communities, scholars, and environmental experts. The event highlighted the critical role of faith in tackling environmental challenges and aimed to bolster collaboration among global religious leaders in combating climate change. Building on the success of the 2023 summit in Abu Dhabi, the Baku gathering sought to reinforce partnerships and the commitment of religious organizations to environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

f) Arigatou international at the GNRC Sixth Forum in Abu Dhabi

At the invitation of Arigatou – Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki attended the Sixth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) in Abu Dhabi, under the theme "*The Child is Calling: Interfaith Cooperation to Build a Hopeful World for Children.*" The forum, hosted by Arigatou International and the Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities (IAFSC), brought together world leaders, religious communities, and key stakeholders to address urgent global challenges affecting children. Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, participated as a distinguished panelist. In his address, he highlighted the rapid increase in Africa's child population, emphasizing that many children are born into poverty, which leads to insecure lives. He urged for measures to alleviate poverty to improve the living conditions of African children.

g) CCME 60th Anniversary in Frankfurt, Germany

In recognition of the cordial partnership between AACC and CCME Rev. Dr. Mwombeki attended the anniversary and brought greetings from the AACC. In his message he



appreciated CCME's overall approach to migration issues which strives to ensure that people are treated with dignity as they are all created in the image of God. Human dignity is sacred and their rights as human beings are God given and must be protected more than countries protect their borders." He continued. Dr. Fidon affirmed that as the political atmosphere around the world is changing and turning against migration to perceive it the root cause of all problems in our different countries, the call for CCME, AACC and their members to not let that toxic rhetoric take root and overturn decades of development is vivid. He

highlighted that the AACC is working on the campaign for African patriotism under the theme Africa. My Home. My Future. aimed at encouraging young people to remain and prosper in Africa. In addition to this, he also acknowledged the fact that millions of young people have no hope to succeed in their countries and one cannot dissuade them from taking opportunities elsewhere. He, therefore, stressed the need to focus on the protection of the dignity and rights of all people above anything else. Speaking to the challenge of irregular migration, the General Secretary called for a critical examination of the Bilateral Labor Agreements to ensure that they are not drivers of modern slavery.

3.2. Effective Management and Sustainability

This pillar during the period under review focused on several key areas to ensure smooth functioning, efficiency, and success of the AACC. These included human resource management where clear job descriptions, goals and objectives were set for each position, strategic planning, resource allocation, leading and motivating teams, and monitoring and controlling performance as well as Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Compliance and the operations of the Strategic Business Unit for the effective management and sustainability of the AACC focusing for the period under review. This was done as follows:

3.2.1. Human Resource Management

Staff Capacity was strengthened and new staff were recruited. Training was offered to staff on Results Based Management and PMER. The Programmes development and fundraising officer together with the Director for Finance and Administration, as well as the Executive Secretary, Quality Assurance and Compliance attended a training “Results Based Management (RBM) Revisited: Planning for the Unforeseen” organized by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) Partnership Forum from January 15th to February 29th 2024. The training was done virtually for the first six weeks

and culminated with an in-person training from 27th to 29th February at the Sida Offices in Härnösand - Sweden



From Left to right Anysie, Phyllis and Ann holding their certificates of participation after the training.
Looking on are the Course trainers Andreas and Nora from Sida.

3.2.2. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

During the period under review, the AACC enhanced its Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in all areas of its work by equipping AACC with modern and adequate ICT infrastructure through improvements and upgrades undertaken to improve system reliability, enhance operational efficiency, strengthening digital presence, and aligning AACC with modern ICT standards to support the AACC's strategic goals. ICT Policies and Procedures Manual was reviewed the organization's website was updated with new and relevant information. This improved content accuracy, visibility, and user experience for both internal and external users.

3.2.3. Staff capacity building on Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) System

In August, an inhouse training on AACC's Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) System was conducted for staff at all the AACC's offices. This ensured all staff effectiveness, accountability, and resource efficiency for all projects and activities implemented during the period under review. The system also provided valuable insights into program performance, identified areas for improvement, and informed decision-making at various levels. Staff were able to track progress towards project objectives and identify any deviations from the plan. Regular reporting enhanced transparency and allowed open communication about successes and challenges and reports shared internally and externally with donors of respective projects.

3.2.4. Financial and Compliance Management

During the period under review, the AACC continued to comply with all the host countries labor regulations /laws, and other statutory, donor policies and procedures and internal controls. Financial and Procurement Policies were reviewed and follow up on issues raised in Post-audit letter of the 2023 audit process were done. Project audits where needed were done as per each donor timelines as well as the institutional audit.

3.2.5. Sustainability:

This involved ensuring prudent and effective management of resources to ensure long term sustainability of AACC Programmes by strengthening institutional risk management to address risks present in the contexts and environments where AACC operates from. Strong internal collaboration in resource mobilization, fundraising and investment in the AACC properties development to ensure steady income generation from Real Estate unit was prioritized. Various improvement works on all AACC properties in the 3 host countries to improve both functionality and aesthetics of the various properties was done which improved tenant satisfaction and led to tenant retention.

4. CONCLUSION

The year 2024 saw the commencement of implementation of the AACC 2024 – 2028 Strategy and the progress reported in this report reflect the many achievements that the organisation recorded. I want to express my gratitude to all AACC staff and members for their commitment to the success and sustainability of the fellowship. Our Director for Finance and Administration has been, together with her various teams, very methodical in ensuring proper management and income generation, as well as compliance and ensured historic transformation in the real estate section.

Reflecting on a year filled with significant activities and achievements, it is evident that our collective efforts have led to remarkable progress and growth. Year 2024 was characterized by a dynamic engagement with our members, innovative projects initiatives, high level advocacy engagements and the successful execution of our strategic goals.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this momentum. The insights gained from this busy year will inform our strategies as we aim to deepen our reach and strengthen our programs. Together, we will continue to champion our causes and strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making year 2024 a success and we look forward to another year of shared accomplishments. We remain optimistic about the future of our continent, **the Africa We Want**, as envisioned in the 20 goals of the Agenda 2063, which is the **Africa We Pray For! Africa: My Home, My future!**

Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki
AACC's General Secretary