



The African Pulse

July - September 2025

Issue 15



Churches in Africa together for life, peace, justice and dignity

The African Pulse

July - November 2025 | Issue 15

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The African Pulse is published periodically by the All Africa Conference of Churches as an information, educational and advocacy channel for the ecumenical movement in Africa.

AACC is a continental ecumenical body that accounts for over 200 million Christians across the Continent and a member of the world wide ecumenical network. It is the largest association of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and African Indigenous Churches. AACC has 210 members comprising Churches, National Councils of Churches (NCCs), Theological and Lay Training Institutions, and other Christian organizations in 43 African countries.

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MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is with immense joy and profound hope that this 15th issue of the African Pulse is released to you, our member churches, partners, governments, colleagues and friends of AACC. I am grateful to God for his guidance throughout the period of putting all this work together. My heart also goes to the editorial team for the good work done in this issue, feel much appreciated.

During the period under review, Malawi held its presidential elections in September. I Congratulate the citizens of this country for the peaceful election and wish the elected leaders success in their service to God and humanity.

On a sad note, in August 2025, the ecumenical community lost a brother and servant in the Lord's vineyard, Rev. Dr. Peter Cruchley who was Director for the World Council of Churches Commission for World Mission and Evangelism (WCC-CWME). We will always remember

Peter and thank God for the gift he was to us. May God continue strengthening his family.

May God's blessings be with you, as you engage with AACC's work in the next pages.

Thank you!

Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki,
AACC General Secretary





Governance, Membership Development & Networking

01 ▶

Ms. Faith Muthithi

AACC General Secretary Participated in the Global Ministries General Assembly in the USA

From the 9th to 17th July 2025, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) General Secretary, Rev Dr. Fidon Mwombeki was invited by Global Ministries; a joint agency of Disciples of Christ in the United States of America (USA) and Canada and United Church of USA, to attend their General Assembly held in Memphis, Tennessee. Global Ministries have consistently provided significant financial support to AACC particularly in financing the position of Director for Theology and Interfaith Relations. The General Secretary in his speech reminded the Global Ministries partners that their mission is appreciated by the AACC and the churches in Africa in general.

At the General Assembly, the General Secretary was part of the panel of international guests in a workshop on **“Global Rise of Authoritarianism”**.

He highlighted that Africa sees and loves the rise of authoritative leaders, who may be mistaken for authoritarians (Gabon, Burkina Faso, and Mali) **“People want order, and democracy must mean more than periodic elections, when these are manipulated by the incumbent government to perpetuate bad governance, corruption, nepotism”** said the General Secretary Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki.



Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki with our global ecumenical leaders at the Global Ministries General Assembly

The Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim in Nigeria Celebrated its Centenary Anniversary



AACC General Secretary in dialogues with the head of the Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim in Nigeria.

From September 7th to 10th, the AACC General Secretary attended the centenary celebrations of the Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim in Nigeria. The invitation saw the General Secretary join a diverse array of guests, including leaders from various other church denominations.

Throughout the four-day event, the General Secretary actively participated in the planned activities. A key highlight was joining the congregants for the main service, followed by the highly visible **'Paint the City White'** procession.

The celebrations culminated in a massive gathering at the Tafawa Balewa Square, where an estimated 100,000 worshippers, all dressed in white, came together for worship, prayer, and presentations. Discussions with the host church's leaders provided insight into their distinctive theological and organizational principles, notably their commitment to self-reliant theology, a non-hereditary leadership model, and a massive volunteer priesthood supported by tent-making (self-sustained) ministry. The event served as a significant expression of ecumenical solidarity and celebration.

The United Church of Canada (UCC) 2025 Pilgrimage of Learning Initiative

The AACC on Monday, 25th August 2025, hosted five UCC pilgrims who were on a transformative initiative to strengthen global solidarity, amplify partner voices, and affirm the United Church's commitment to faithful presence and mutual learning across cultures and continents. The visit started with a morning

devotion at the AACC Chapel that was attended by UCC partners in Kenya. The AACC General Secretary, together with AACC staff thereafter hosted a bilateral meeting with the delegation, where he shared about the important work the AACC is doing across the continent.



The five pilgrims pictured above from left to right were, Jordan MacDonald (O'Leary United, PEI): Community developer with expertise in rural economic growth, Sherri Fowler (Keremeos, BC): Lifelong United Church volunteer with international travel and outreach experience, Natalia Cabrera Guerra (Parksville, BC): Colombian-born community builder focused on attachment and intergenerational care, Rev. Christopher Fraser (Parkdale United, Toronto): Minister and affordable housing advocate and Amy Zavitz – UCC Global Partnerships coordinator.

AACC General Secretary Strengthens Partnerships at UEM General Assembly

The AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, participated in the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) General Assembly in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from the 14th to 17th September 2025. Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki was UEM's General Secretary from 2006 to 2015. Notably, the five thematic areas and structures established during his tenure at UEM remain relevant and unchanged, a testament to their enduring value.

During his time at the Assembly, he held constructive conversations with the General Secretaries of the Council for World Mission and CEVAA. These meetings focused on exploring avenues for future collaboration between their respective organizations and the AACC, including potential support for the AACC's MTEL program.

A separate, key meeting took place with Vivian Zhengwei, Deputy General Secretary of the Amity Foundation. The two leaders agreed to actively collaborate in identifying opportunities for cooperation. A particular focus of this potential partnership is on procurement for the Desmond Tutu Conference Center (DTCC) in Nairobi. The General Secretary's strategic engagement across these platforms marked a vital and productive step in strengthening the AACC's network of international partnerships. The trip reaffirmed AACC's commitment to ecumenical unity and cooperative development initiatives.

AACC hosted the Church of Sweden's Archbishop for a Dialogue on Churches as Actors for Peace



AACC General Secretary welcomes the Archbishop and his team

On 5th September 2025, the Archbishop of the Church of Sweden, Most Rev. Martin Modéus, paid a courtesy visit to the AACC General Secretariat in Nairobi during his visit to Kenya. Accompanied by his wife and staff from the Act Church of Sweden, Archbishop Martin

was received by the AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, and AACC staff in Nairobi. The team held a constructive dialogue on peacebuilding with a focus on the role of churches as actors of peace.

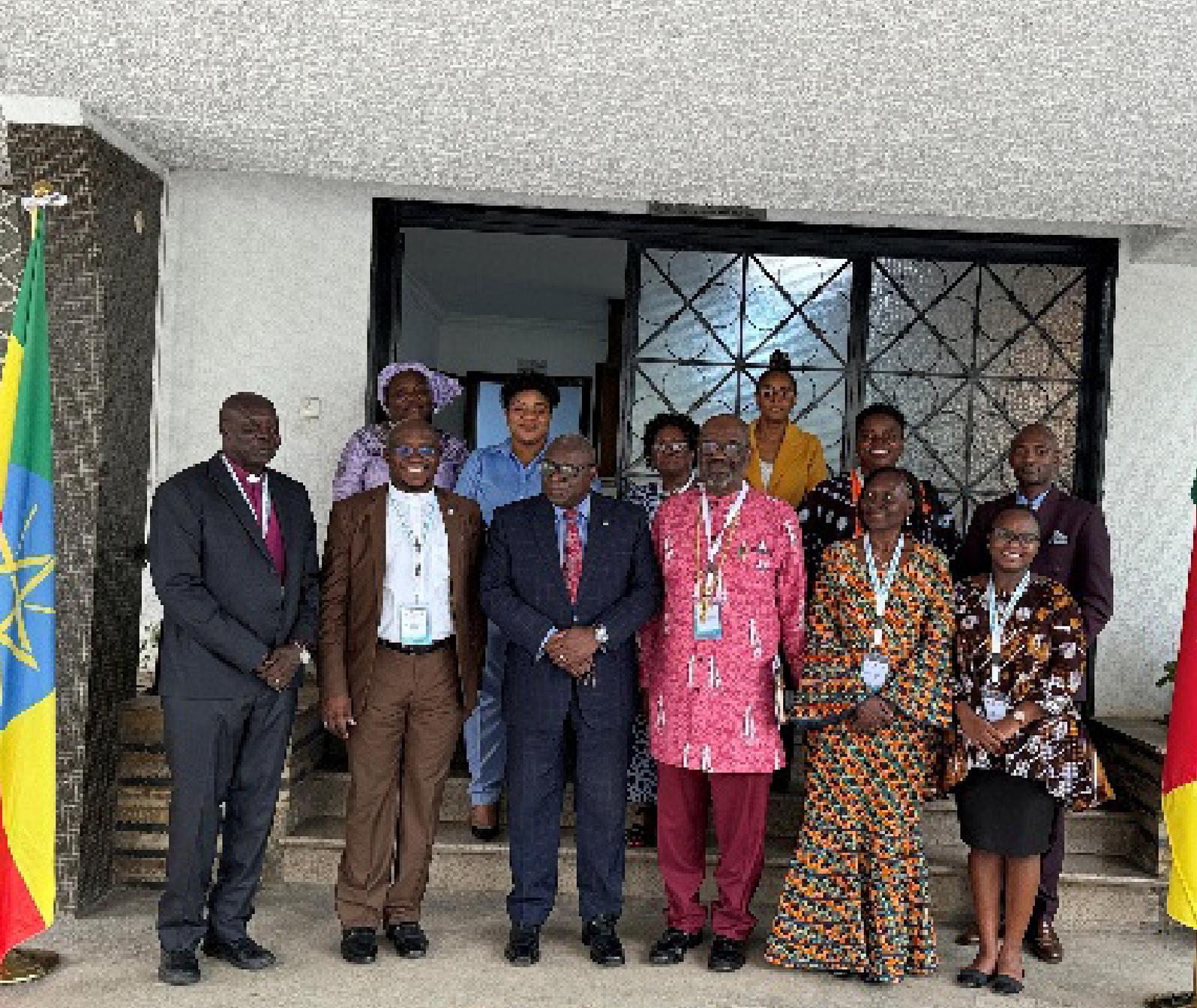
While speaking to the composition, vision, mission, and mandate of the AACC, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, stressed that peace-building and keeping have been part of AACC work and life since its foundation in 1963.

“For us, peace is central to protecting and promoting human dignity in Africa and churches remain key actors in this work.” He noted.

Rev. Dr. Lesmore Gibson Ezekiel, the Director of Peace, Ecclesial Leadership and Theology, highlighted some of AACC’s peacebuilding initiatives, such as the Eminent Persons’ Ecumenical Peace Programme in Africa, AACC’s work with the African Union Peace and Security Council, and AACC’s responses to violent extremism and radicalization in Africa.

While elaborating on the relationship between gender justice and peacebuilding, Ms. Ann Kioi, the Director of Gender, Women, Youth and Sustainable Population, shared about the work of the AACC in the fight against Sexual and Gender Based Violence and how they contribute to the advancement of peace and security on the continent. She highlighted AACC’s key flagship projects for gender justice, such as the Churches’ Campaign Against SGBV, Male Champions for gender justice platforms and the Justice for Widows campaign.

Archbishop Martin appreciated and celebrated AACC’s work and approaches to peacebuilding, stressing the need to remain intentional in investing in and mentoring young people to grow into reliable and faithful peacemakers and peacekeepers.



Peace in Africa

02 

Rev. Dr. Lesmore. G. Ezekiel

Faith Leaders met in Addis Ababa to Strengthen Commitment to Promoting the Culture of Peace in Africa

From September 22nd to 26th 2025, Addis Ababa became a meeting ground for faith leaders of the Eminent Persons in the Ecumenical Program for Peace in Africa (EPEPPA). With representation from 14 different countries, the leaders gathered to promote the Culture of Peace in Africa. Together with organizing partners; The AACC, the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA), ACT Alliance, the World Council of Churches (WCC), and United Religions Initiative (URI), entered into honest conversations with the African Union (AU) and other stakeholders, exploring how faith-based organizations can strengthen Africa's peace efforts.

The engagements began with a meeting at the Evangelical Council of Gospel Believers, where attendees were reminded that they must not pursue a gospel of politics but one of peace and love, doing what God requires of us. Participants from AACC then met the Interreligious Council of Ethiopia, whose collective voice affirmed the power of unity among diverse faith communities.

At the African Union Headquarters, the Peace and Mediation Team, hosted open conversations reflecting on Africa's peace challenges and the role of faith communities in justice and reconciliation. The Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) followed, emphasizing that AU policies must remain people-centered and all-inclusive.



Group photo of the delegation together with the staff of the Delegation to the Cameroon Embassy

Day two began with an inspiring visit from the Ethiopian Minister of Peace, a ministry dedicated solely to matters of peace. His passionate reflections energized the team before our return to the AU to meet the African Governance Architecture and African Peace and Security Architecture (AGA-APSA), where more knowledge was shared on the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS). Later, the delegation split to pay courtesy visits to the embassies of South Sudan, Sudan, and Cameroon.

The week culminated in key resolutions, including organizing interfaith prayers across Africa, running joint campaigns against hate speech, lobbying for AU reforms, engaging with regional blocs, training on CEWS, promoting constructive dialogue, supporting peaceful elections, and advancing humanitarian responses to safeguard human dignity.



Group photo of the delegation together with the staff of the Delegation to the Cameroon Embassy



The team with the Ethiopian Minister of Peace



Theology and Interfaith Relations

03 ▶

Rev. Fr. John Njoroge

ACRL-RfP 5th General Assembly Strengthens Interfaith Collaborations for Peace and Justice

African Council for Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace (ACRL-RfP) convened its 5th General Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, bringing together over 150 faith leaders, scholars, youth, and women from across the continent. Held at Ole-Serena Hotel, the Assembly ran from 11th to 12th August 2025 on the theme *“Shared Sacred Flourishing: Interfaith Leadership for Peace and Justice in Africa.”*

As a member of the Governing Board, the AACC was represented by Rev. Angele Wilson-Dogbe, Director for AACC’s regional office at Lome and Rev. Fr. Dr. John Njoroge, Executive Secretary, Theology and Interfaith Relations.

During the opening session, Rev. Angele Dogbe delivered AACC’s goodwill message, applauding ACRL-RfP’s commitment to pursuing peace and

justice in Africa. Speaking to the Assembly theme, she emphasized that interfaith leadership is not merely a dialogue of ideas but a partnership of courage and action.

The Assembly concluded with a renewed mandate for ACRL-RfP to harness Africa’s rich spiritual heritage as a potent force for justice and shared prosperity for current and future generations. According to Rev. Dr. John Njoroge, the ACRL-RfP’s 5th General Assembly was more than just an institutional gathering but a veritable catalyst for launching new initiatives.

“Participants pledged to strengthen cooperation among religious institutions, community organizations, and public authorities to build an African future founded on peace, equality, human dignity and sustainability.” He noted.



Rev. Fr. John in dialogue with Prof. Abba Girma from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church at the ACRL-RfP 5th General Assembly. [Courtesy - ACRL]



Economic and Ecological Justice

04 ▶

Dr. Tinashe Gumbo

Faith Leaders Prioritize Adaptation Ahead of the Africa Climate Summit-COP30

Ahead of the Africa Climate Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in September and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belem, Brazil, in November, African faith leaders called for sufficient funds to meet the global goal of adaptation.

During the Continental Economic and Ecological Justice Advocacy meeting in Nairobi, held from 29-31 July 2025, faith actors shared that communities are in urgent need of funds to help cope with the existing climate catastrophe. Concerns on climate change mitigation, foreign debt repayment, and reforming the global financial architecture, and the shift to renewable energies were also raised. Christian and Muslim leaders from 21 African nations attended the meeting organized by the Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ).

Azmaira Alibhai, the Faith and Ecosystems Coordinator at the United Nations Environmental Programme in Nairobi, stressed the faiths' role in ecology and climate change work, as she emphasized partnerships in the climate change engagements.

The meeting's objectives included strengthening the capacity of faith actors for climate justice actions and harmonizing their efforts to advocate for ecological and economic justice.

Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, the Programme Executive, Ecological Justice at the AACC, said the participants

were people who may have heard about the issues, but not in a systematic way.

Sheikh Muhammad Sani Isah, the Chief Imam, Waff Road Mosque Forum in Kaduna, Nigeria, viewed the meeting as a call on all Muslims to join the work on ecological and climatic challenges, to advocate for justice in the utilization of natural resources.

Key messages from the meeting formed part of the faith recommendations at the Africa Climate Summit and COP30.



Above: The AFAN-CJ Garden in Kigali, Rwanda, established in 2022, showcased during the meeting. Below is the group photo of the continental meeting delegates.

AFAN-CJ participated in Africa Climate Week and the Second Africa Climate Summit

The Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ) and other faith actors participated in the Africa Climate Week and Second Africa Climate Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 to 10 September 2025. In their various engagement sessions, including media engagements, faith actors encouraged governments and global powers to focus on delivering equitable African solutions to the climate crisis.

While in Addis, faith actors held a pre-summit workshop to concretize their declaration. The workshop was convened by AFAN-CJ, ACT Alliance, Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC), Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia, and the Consortium of Climate Change Ethiopia. The subsequent statement issued from the meeting represents the culmination of months of interfaith consultations and collective discernment across the continent ahead of the summit.

In the statement, the faith actors stressed the **“complex reality of vulnerability and risks posed by the existential climate change threat”** and demanded renewed efforts by the international community to strengthen Africa’s adaptation to climate impacts, besides other policy-backed action.

Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, the AACC Programme Executive, Ecological Justice, spoke during the press conference, urging African leaders at the Africa Climate Summit to prioritize concrete actions such as delivering adaptation and

loss-and-damage finance, as well as closing the adaptation gap and supporting locally-led solutions.

“We hope the work we have done as faith actors, including what we have stated in the declaration, will be considered by our leaders as they make final decisions at the summit,” said Bishop Ernesto Manuel, AFAN-CJ Mozambique.

Moderator Sanjee Abioseh Stepted, of AFAN-CJ in Liberia: We want to keep working with other faith-based organizations in different countries to improve understanding of climate issues that affect food security and energy access.

The workshop was convened by AFAN-CJ, ACT Alliance, Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC), Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia, and the Consortium of Climate Change Ethiopia.

Several faith leaders expressed their stance between the debtors and the climate change-affected countries, as they also called for the cancellation of the debts and redirecting available funds to strengthening communities' climate resilience, while ensuring accountability and transparency.

During the Africa Climate Week, ahead of the Africa Climate Summit, the AACC presided over a module on Faith and Climate Justice for the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice, organized in collaboration with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance.



Faith actors during the press conference, reading the faith statement

Faith Actors Launched Contextual Bible Studies Materials on Climate Justice



Group photo of the participants after the CBS launch

On 1st September 2025, the AFAN-CJ hosted other faith actors and launched Contextual Bible Studies (CBS) Resources on Climate Justice. This marked a significant milestone in its journey of faith, climate action and local participation in environmental care. The event was held at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre in Nairobi.

The CBS will act as a guide for equipping clergy, students, and lay leaders with resources that connect scripture to real-world challenges such as environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, and the search for climate justice.

Bishop Dr. Emily Onyango member AFAN-CJ, initiated the process of developing the CBS, and challenged faith actors to utilize CBS as a tool to address the contemporary climate change effects in Africa. This was affirmed by AACC Director of

Programs, Rev. Dr. Lesmore Gibson Ezekiel, who technically supported the CBS development and launch process.

In his address, Rt. Rev. Prof. Joseph Galgalo from the Anglican Church called upon the faith actors to live out their prophetic role by guiding communities toward stewardship of creation, reminding them that climate justice is not just an environmental issue but also a moral and spiritual calling rooted in the scriptures.

The CBS materials affirm AFAN-CJ's vision of faith actors working hand in hand to nurture a just, sustainable, and hopeful future for all creation. The CBS materials were piloted during the Season of Creation by selected participants. The AACC continues to provide technical assistance to the process that will see twelve more texts being utilized in 2026.

Economic Justice Champions led Anti-Corruption Day Commemorations

The AACC commemorated Africa Anti-Corruption Day from 11 to 20 July 2025 through localized activities in different countries. The local activities were spearheaded by the Economic Justice Champions with technical support from the AACC Secretariat. To complement the local initiatives, a continental virtual dialogue session to commemorate anti-corruption efforts was held on 11 July 2025. The meeting was attended by Economic Justice Champions who shared insights from their local commemorations with regard to transparency and accountability. An official faith actors' statement was issued on 11 July to mark the commemorations that run up to 20th July 2025.

The Economic Justice Champions in Burundi, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Malawi, among others, convened localized dialogue meetings with

relevant stakeholders, including policy makers, anti-corruption institutions, and civil society organizations. The events were widely covered by their local media institutions, amplifying the faith actors' advocacy work on anti-corruption. The major issues discussed at the meetings included the call for policymakers and anti-corruption institutions to practically, politically and legally demonstrate their commitment to preventing, combating, and criminalizing corrupt practices in their countries.

This year's theme on African Anti-Corruption Day was commemorated under the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC)'s theme, *"Promoting Human Dignity in the Fight Against Corruption,"* which resonates with AACC's belief in the promotion and protection of human dignity at all times.



Rtd. Rt. Rev. Eliud Wabukala (left), AACC Economic Justice Champion, led a Special Church Service on anti-corruption on 20th July 2025 at Anglican St. Paul Osutua Church, Tuala. Joined here by Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, AACC Programme Executive, Ecological Justice and Lay Church leader role-playing dialogue sessions on anti-corruption.

AACC Participates in Fifth African Conference on Debt and Development

On behalf of the AACC, Dr Tinashe Gumbo, the Programme Executive, Ecological Justice, attended the Fifth African Conference on Debt and Development (AfCoDD V) in Accra, Ghana, from 26 to 29 August 2025. The conference was convened by AFRODAD and the International Development Economics Associates Ltd and other civic organizations in Africa.

The conference was characterized by plenary sessions, side events, and public rallies. Side events allowed participants to have a deeper conversation on Africa's public debt, climate finance, reparative justice and other critical thematic areas affecting Africa's development. The topics covered resonated well with the AACC's efforts to strengthen faith actors in their advocacy on public debt and other related issues.

The AfCoDD V held under the theme, *"Africa's Debt Crisis: A Reparations and Reparative Justice Framework Analysis"* in recognition of the historical injustices that have been perpetuated on the Continent and its peoples, resulting in structural and systemic inequalities. The periods of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the Colonial Period, the Apartheid Era, and the prevailing Extractive Global Economic, Political, and social system have much to do with the present-day challenges Africa and Africans face in achieving full emancipation and sovereignty in all forms. The AfCoDD V was specifically framed around the need to build a distinctly African debt agenda within the current conversations on reparative justice being facilitated by the African political leadership.



Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, AACC Programme Executive, Ecological Justice during the Pan-African Rally on Africa's Debt, marching in Accra

African Youths Challenged to be Active Citizens at the Nairobi Debt and Climate Summit

The AACC participated in the Nairobi Debt and Climate Summit convened by the National International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) and the Movement of Catholic Students Kenya on 23 July 2025 at the Glint Mint Studios in Nairobi. The summit was the inaugural stop of the Jubilee Caravan of Hope, being led by the African Catholic students. It was attended by African youths from different countries, both physically and virtually.

The summit was thus part of the regional youth-led campaign meant to mobilize faith actors and other stakeholders across Africa to address the continent's debt situation from a climate and debt justice perspective. Africa is facing rising climate vulnerability and crippling debt burdens that directly undermine sustainable development, youth employment, and community resilience.

The AACC works through its Economic Champions across the continent to raise awareness on debt and climate justice. Thus, representing the AACC at the summit, Dr Tinashe Gumbo, Programme Executive, Ecological Justice, made a presentation that challenged the African youth to be actively involved in advocacy on debt in their countries. Dr Gumbo gave a lecture on Africa's debt situation from the colonial to post-colonial era. He also shared the role played by faith actors, such as the AACC, to contribute to the national, continental and global conversations on debt and climate justice. It was noted that some of the debt that is affecting the social and economic development of Africa is actually an odious debt that needs to be cancelled. Yet, the youths should be actively involved in advocacy on key economic processes such as national budget consultations.



Dr. Tinashe Gumbo making a presentation at the Debt and Climate Justice Youth Summit, 23 July 2025, Glint Mint Studios, Nairobi



Youth

05 

Mr. Muyunga Brian

AACC Engaged Youth in Interfaith Dialogues on Eradicating Violent Extremism

From the 23rd to – 26th of September, AACC held a webinar series on Youth Interfaith Dialogues on Eradicating Violent Extremism. The four-day event was facilitated by Mr. Kelvin Vundi and moderated by Ms. Esther Kasako. The webinar attracted over 65 participants from across Africa in a highly informative and insightful session. The main objective was to build youth capacity, empowering them to become active agents in preventing and countering violent extremism, through facilitated inter and intra-faith dialogues, fostering resilience, critical thinking and community cohesion.

The sessions explored concepts on the root causes of violent extremism, noting Africa's youth bulge, economic issues, and technology as contributing factors to violent extremism. Mr. Vundi noted that Africa's population which is majorly comprised of young people, serves as a big potential for violent extremism recruiters to target vulnerable youth, especially those in poor economies. Moreover, these recruiters leverage digital media to push a violent extremism narrative and finally recruit unsuspecting young individuals. Another contributing factor is the false faith ideologies and manipulative religious narratives used by violent extremist groups to mislead young people into acts of violence.

To note, was the role played by women both as the victims and initiators of violent extremism. Women in violent extremism are faced with dead crisis including sexual abuse, victimization

by counter-terrorism forces, loss of livelihood and property, and exploitation of traditional roles. As initiators, women are responsible for: Ideological enforcement, recruitment and radicalization among financial and operational support, indicating that both young men and women risk being recruited into violent extremist groups, thus approaches to P/CVE must focus on a gendered analysis, for complete eradication of violent extremism in Africa.

This important discussion also underscored the role of youth in countering violent extremism by challenging false faith ideologies and leveraging digital media. To this effect, the training provided media literacy skills for youths to discern and deconstruct violent extremism narratives, propaganda, and misinformation, coupled with the importance of faith and value for diversity of different religions for better outcomes.

The immediate and enthusiastic feedback from the participants underscored the high value and impact of the training. Attendees highlighted the relevance of the discussions and the quality of the delivery, emphasizing a strong desire for continued engagement.

"The content was delivered so clearly and engagingly, it truly was time well spent. I walked away with actionable insights." Another participant echoed this sentiment, stating, *"I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and appreciated the expertise of the facilitator."*

The methods for leveraging digital media to counter extremist narratives were particularly insightful and the entire session felt crucial for African youth.”

In response to this positive feedback and the highlighted need for continuous action, the AACC affirmed its commitment to continuity. With the

new skills and knowledge acquired, participants will have a tangible opportunity to translate learning into action by applying for a seed grant. This funding is intended to support grassroots projects geared toward addressing tech-facilitated violent extremism, solidifying the AACC’s promise to ensure continuous engagement in creating peace across Africa.

AAYN Inter-faith Dialogues on Eradicating Violent Extremism

Meeting recordings Sep 24, 2025 05:53 PM

HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE PROPAGANDA & MISINFORAMTION

STOP:

1. Is it trying to trigger fear, anger or hate?
2. Does it sound to urgent or extreme to be true?

THINK:

1. Who created the message ?
2. What are the sources?
3. What is missing?

VERIFY:

You only move when its:

1. Multiple credible sources confirm it.
2. Its balanced not one sided.

Nairobi Set to Host the 2nd All Africa Youth Congress

The AACC is gearing up for the highly anticipated 2nd All Africa Youth Congress (AAYC) set to take place from the **31st of October to the 5th of November 2025** in **Nairobi, Kenya**. This transformative gathering is expected to attract over 500 young people from across Africa in a bid to reshape Africa's narrative to the desired state of peace, prosperity and stability.

Under the theme **'Africa: My Home. My Future.'** The Congress will set course for young people to become active change agents in their countries and across the continent by applying Christian values and ecumenical leadership. Furthermore, this congregation will look to build on the gains and momentum from the 1st AAYC and forge pathways into the future.

In a broader context, the event will serve as a platform for critical conversations on issues affecting the continent. To kickstart this, the AACC has held various online discussions (webinars) and continues to do so in preparation for the congress. With young people leveraging digital media, these pertinent discussions will ensure that young people are not only heard but are part and parcel of the change envisioned. To further enrich these discussions, the 2nd AAYC will provide an opportunity for youth to showcase and celebrate their African heritage to foster the pan African spirit.

This pan African campaign holds great potential for holistic development within the continent. The engagements will not only inspire youth but will impress upon them the responsibility to take part in transforming the continent on various fronts, if not all.

With this great diversity, we hope to build commonality and a shared purpose that will restore the continent. We, the African people, have a better understanding of the issues that affect us and are thus able to come up with solutions to alleviate our problems. It is upon the young people to lead this transformative change and chart a way forward for prosperity and sustainability of Africa that will not only benefit them but also future generations.

It is with great humility that we invite the young people to take part in this monumental occasion. We hope that the divergent views will culminate in solutions, strategies and ideas that could push the continent forward. We eagerly anticipate the participation of all youth across Africa and the positive impact it will have on the African people.

THE 2ND ALL AFRICA Youth CONGRESS 2025
AFRICA: MY HOME | MY FUTURE

AFRICA: MY HOME. MY FUTURE.

31st October to 5th November 2025
Nairobi - Kenya

Program Booklet

organisent

JOURNÉE MONDIALE DE LUTTE CONTRE LA TRAITE DES ÊTRES HUMAINS



Gender and Women

06



Ms. Ann Kioi

Let Love Lead: AACCC's Youth Networks Lead Campaigns on Ending SGBV To Mark the International Youth Day Celebrations

As the world marked the International Youth Day on the 12th day of August, it celebrated the role of young people as champions of sustainable development across the globe. Young people across Africa were united under the theme: *“Local Youth Action for Sustainable Development and beyond.”* In Africa, particularly, this celebration took on a unique dimension; young leaders rose to confront the continent’s most persistent challenge; Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Through church campaigns against SGBV in Africa, twenty-eight All Africa Youth Network members led events and campaigns that mobilized fellow young people in 12 African nations to shun all forms of SGBV, embrace transformative masculinities and femininities and work for Gender Equality and Justice in their pursuit of a peaceful and Secure Africa.

“Since the Churches Campaign Against SGBV was launched at AACCC’s 12th General Assembly in Abuja, Nigeria, in 2023, we decided to begin celebrating and commemorating international and continental significant days in ways that mobilize and empower young people in our constituencies to work for an end to SGBV in Africa.” Noted Rev. Stanley Toddison of the Presbyterian Church in Ghana and the chairperson for the Technical Work Group spearheading AACCC’s Campaign against SGBV in Africa.

“For this year’s International Youth Day, we celebrated through 14 events and activities involving the use of digital advocacy, creative arts, and community engagement to challenge harmful gender norms and stereotypes, creating awareness on Tech-facilitated GBV, and emphasizing the significant role of Gender Justice and equality in achieving peace and sustainable development.” Added Rev. Stanley Toddison.

All fourteen events celebrated the 2025 IYD, featuring AACCC’s rallying call, **“Let Love Lead: End GBV Now.”** They included focus group discussions and Contextual Bible Studies at church premises in Namibia and Mozambique, outreaches to immigrant communities in Morocco, schools, tertiary institutions, and other community centers in Tanzania, Music, poetry and other creative art shows in Kenya, among other key activities.

In all these activities, the youth leaders pledged their commitment against SGBV, a pledge developed by the All Africa Youth Network in March 2024 to lead participants in expressing their commitment to shunning all forms of Violence and advocating for a peaceful and secure world that is free from all forms of violence and injustice, including SGBV.

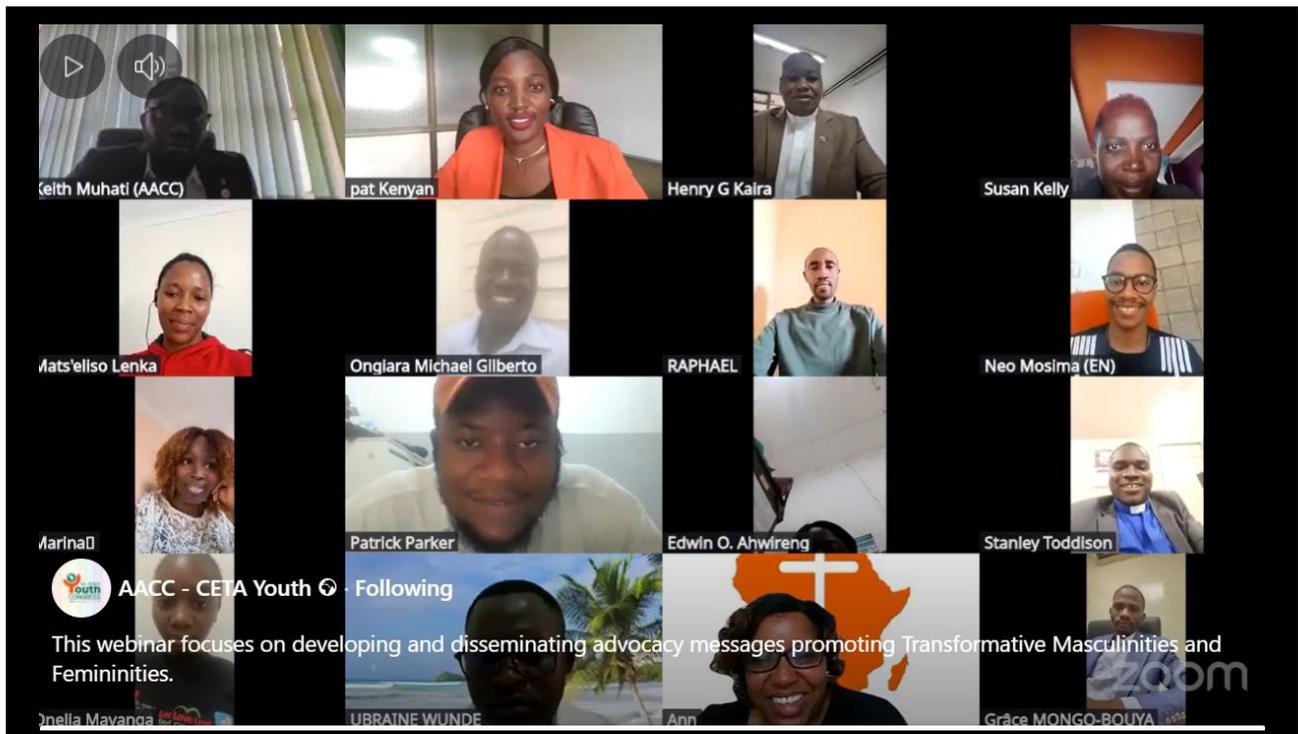
Youth Held a Series of Webinars on Challenging Gender Stereotypes and End GBV in Africa

The first set of webinars was held on 6–7 August 2025 under the theme *“Promoting Transformative Masculinities and Femininities in Africa: Socialization, Gender Formation, and SGBV.”* The two-day event brought together youth, clergy, and gender advocates across the continent to explore how gender norms are formed, reinforced, and transformed through both traditional and digital spaces.

The conversation aimed to strengthen the capacity of youth and church leaders to promote gender justice and end Gender-Based Violence (GBV), aligning with Agenda 2063’s vision of inclusive development. Moderated by Ms. Felicity Kendi, the sessions featured Rev. Stanley Toddison of

the Presbyterian Church of Ghana and Dr. Sarah Macharia of the World Association for Christian Communicators (WACC), with opening remarks from Ms. Ann Kioi, AACC Director for Gender, Youth, and Sustainable Population.

The second set of webinars in this quarter was held on 18–19 September 2025 under the theme *“Developing and Disseminating Advocacy Messages that Promote Transformative Masculinities and Femininities.”* The two-day virtual session continued AACC’s campaign, **“Let Love Lead: End GBV Now,”** and focused on equipping faith leaders and young people with tools to develop, communicate, and live out theologies that challenge Gender-Based Violence (GBV) across Africa.



Moderator Patrick Parker opened the session by affirming that under Agenda 2063, Africa envisions a non-sexist society where all people, men, women, boys, and girls reach their full potential. He stressed that ending SGBV is essential to realizing this vision and highlighted the role of youth in transforming gender relations through Christ-centered living.

Ms. Alwanga guided participants in reflecting on faith-based responses to violence, defining *“developing theologies”* as crafting practical reflections rooted in love, justice, and reconciliation. Drawing from **Genesis 1:27** and **Galatians 3:28**, she emphasized that true theology must be inclusive and accessible to all *“beyond scripture reading, into lived practice.”* She urged Christians to turn words into action, reminding them that transformation begins with individuals and must extend into communities, workplaces, and families.

Rev. Kiara addressed the misuse of scripture to justify violence, interpreting passages such as **Genesis 1:27**, **1 Peter 3:7**, and **Numbers 27:1–11** to affirm equality and justice. He highlighted that both men and women are co-bearers of God’s image and that biblical ignorance perpetuates harm. He also shared the Transform Men Series (TMS) mentorship program in Kenya, which engages men on mental health, family relationships, and non-violent masculinity.

Contributors from across Africa, including The Gambia, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Sudan, shared experiences of cultural taboos, stigma, and emerging faith-based initiatives against GBV. Speakers emphasized collaboration between churches, governments, and NGOs to create lasting change.



AACC Regional Office in Lomé

07



Rev. Angele Dogbe

Commemoration of the International Day Against Human Trafficking in Togo: Mobilizing Youth in Togo for Prevention and Protection

To mark the International Day Against Human Trafficking, celebrated on 30 July, the AACC regional office in Lomé organized a capacity-building workshop on 20th August 2025, bringing together 50 young people from across Togo who are committed to social justice and human dignity.

Under the theme *'Human trafficking is organized crime, let's put an end to exploitation'*, which is the theme of the year as indicated by IOM and the UN, this initiative raised awareness and equipped young people with the tools they need to understand the criminal, organized and transnational nature of human trafficking, enabling them to become real agents of change within their communities and put an end to exploitation.

The event brought together young people from the Methodist Church of Togo, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Togo, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Togo, the non-governmental organizations (NGO) Compassion International Togo and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) from several cities across the country, who were trained by government experts.

Two major presentations marked the session: Bilateral contracts: Tools for protection or vectors of exploitation? presented by



Here seen in front, Mr. Atake making his presentation and participant following.

Mr. KADJOU Blewussi, diplomat, advisor and head of the international organizations division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Togolese Abroad. The second presentation was on the theme: Human Trafficking: Organized Crime, Let's Put an End to Exploitation, presented by Mr. ATTAKE, a survivor of human trafficking and personal development coach.

For young people, the challenge was double: understanding the mechanisms of trafficking and acquiring the skills to take effective action. *'We must be vigilant in the face of false promises of migration and employment. Awareness-raising begins in our families, in our neighborhoods, and especially in the digital spaces frequented by young people,'* emphasized one participant.



A group photo of participants and facilitators.

Churches Recognized as Local Allies Against Human Trafficking



The panel

On July 30, 2025, the International Day Against Human Trafficking, Rev. Angele Wilson-Dogbe participated in a panel discussion at Compassion International Togo. At the event, she delivered a 15-minute presentation titled *“Churches, Local Allies Against Human Trafficking.”* In her presentation, Rev. Dogbe highlighted the devastating impact of human trafficking, which shatters lives, breaks families, and threatens entire communities. In her opening remarks, she stated that the fight against human trafficking is not optional; it is an essential mission for AACC, which is committed to promoting justice and the sanctity of human life.

She emphasized that churches play a vital and unique role in combating this crime due to

their trusted status, close relationships with families, and deep roots in community life. According to Rev. Dogbe, the church can fulfill at least five distinct functions namely:

a) Churches must raise awareness about human trafficking. Through sermons, seminars, and locally distributed materials, they educate families about the dangers of trafficking, its causes, signs, and consequences. This education helps break the silence surrounding

the issue and opens eyes to a reality often overlooked.

b) Churches engage with their communities by collaborating with law enforcement, social services, and NGOs. They also leverage large gatherings such as traditional festivals, religious celebrations, and international days like July 30 to raise awareness and mobilize consciences

c) Churches provide crucial support to victims. As safe spaces, they offer listening, psychosocial, and spiritual guidance, as well as support groups to promote healing and reintegration d) Moral voice of churches can be influential in advocating for stronger laws, appropriate policies, and increased awareness among local and national authorities.

They also have the capacity to mobilize members as volunteers, particularly to support victims or specialized organizations and

d) Beyond their visible actions, churches bring a vital spiritual dimension to the fight against human trafficking. Through prayer, they lift up victims, survivors, and those engaged in the struggle. This spiritual mobilization inspires action and strengthens collective determination.

In conclusion, Rev. Angele emphasized that the battle against human trafficking cannot be won solely in courts or institutions; it begins in our villages, neighborhoods, and families. At this grassroots level, churches, thanks to their proximity, moral authority, and mobilization capabilities, are key players. Their commitment can transform pain into hope and pave the way for safer, more just, and united communities. Following the meeting, a joint declaration was adopted, calling on national authorities, religious leaders, community leaders, and civil society to strengthen cooperation to break up criminal networks and protect victims. The celebration served as an opportunity to reiterate that the fight against human trafficking is not solely the responsibility of institutions but a collective commitment. By empowering young people with a voice and the means to act, the workshop sent a strong message: exploitation has no place in our societies.

First, churches have a mission to raise awareness. Through preaching, seminars, or the distribution of materials in local languages, they inform families about the dangers of trafficking, its causes, signs, and consequences. Through this education, they break the silence and open eyes to a reality that is too often ignored.

Second, they play a role in community engagement. By collaborating with law enforcement, social services, and NGOs, churches are participating in a collective response. They also take advantage of large gatherings; traditional festivals, religious

celebrations, and international days such as July 30 to raise awareness and mobilize consciences. Another essential focus is victim support. As trusted spaces, churches can offer safe spaces for listening, psychosocial and spiritual guidance, as well as support groups promote healing and reintegration. Fourth, their moral voice can be influential in advocating for more protective laws, appropriate policies, and raising awareness among local and national authorities. They all have the ability to mobilize their members as volunteers, particularly to support victims or specialized organizations.

Finally, beyond their visible actions, churches bring an essential spiritual dimension. Through prayer, they lift up victims, survivors, and all those engaged in this fight.



Rev. Angele making an intervention in the panel

AACC held a Consultation on Combating Gender-Based Violence to Reduce Irregular Migration in the DRC

The AACC(CETA) Regional Office in Lome, successfully held a three-day consultation from **15–17 July 2025** in Lubumbashi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), under the theme: **“Combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) to Reduce Irregular Migration in the DRC.”**

The event, graciously hosted by the Église du Christ, Lumière du Saint-Esprit au Congo, brought together government representatives, religious leaders, faith-based organizations, Civil Society Organizations and community actors to explore the intersection between GBV and migration.

While Her Excellency Valérienne Mumba Kiboko stated that these Lubumbashi meetings are a source of hope as they will improve access to treatment for cases of GBV, she recalled the recent opening of an integrated multi-sectoral center for the treatment of GBV victims at the Jeason Sendwe General Hospital.

Throughout the sessions, participants examined how harmful practices and violence drive vulnerable groups, especially women and youth, into irregular migration, both internally and across borders. They also learned about existing legal instruments and state mechanisms in the DRC designed to combat GBV.



From left to right, Prof. Mayele, Coordinator of the Male Champions platform in DRC, Her Excellency Valérienne Mumba Kiboko and Rev. Angele Wilson-Dogbe

The consultation produced an action plan to map the way forward and a set of key recommendations for faith actors who are:

To work hand in hand with the Ministry of Gender, Family and Child in a spirit of complementarity.

To advocate for the translation of legal instruments into local languages to ensure grassroots-level understanding and impact.

To engage traditional leaders in constructive dialogue, recognizing their influence while addressing harmful customary practices that perpetuate GBV.

To strengthen the efforts of AACC's Male Champions for Gender Justice Platform, encouraging collaboration with churches, mosques, and government structures to scale up awareness.

The consultation marked an important step in strengthening collaboration between faith communities, state institutions, and civil society to combat GBV and address one of its tragic consequences; irregular migration.



African Union Liaison Office and Advocacy

08 ▶

Dr. Gorden Simango

AACC Participates at The African Union Advocacy Week 2025

The AU Advocacy Week 2025 was jointly convened by the AACC and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For the three days of the meeting, delegates explored the continent's urgent realities from contemporary conflicts, silencing of dissent and the impacts of climate change on the human population. Conversations turned into commitments as they engaged the AU Commission and embassies of Sudan, Eswatini, Cameroon, Turkey, Germany, and The Gambia, presenting recommendations anchored in lived experiences from communities that often go unheard.

In a dialogue with Ambassador Salah Hammad, Commissioner of AGA/APSA, faith leaders spoke as moral guardians, pressing for the full implementation of peace agreements in South Sudan, the operationalization of transitional justice frameworks, and the urgent countering of hate speech, a toxin threatening Africa's fragile peace.

Through the AU's Youth and Women Engagement Strategies, delegates demanded that their leadership move from promise to practice, calling for the inclusion and meaningful engagement of young Africans and Women. The Sudanese Ambassador's appeal for African-led recovery found resonance, whilst Eswatini's Ambassador pledged to echo the advocacy messages before the AU Peace and Security Council. The Cameroonian and Gambian representatives leaned into conversations about civic freedoms, while Turkey and Germany explored avenues for sustained cooperation.

On the final day, the group affirmed the power of documentation, storytelling and digital engagement as instruments of truth-telling. The AU Advocacy Week 2025 closed with renewed faith that when African voices rise in unity across pews, parliaments, and public squares, justice and peace are no longer ideals but attainable realities.

AACC joined ECOSOC Citizens' Forum held under the theme Reimagine Democracy and Reparative Justice in Africa



The 4th African Union ECOSOCC Citizens' Forum and CSO Inter-Regional Dialogue was held under the theme *"Reimagining Democracy and Advancing Reparative Justice: A New Social Contract,"* in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. AACC's delegation included Dr. Gordon Simango, Ann Kioi, Mr. Ogwang Denis, Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, Hana Lale who attended the meeting that aimed to re-center democracy within the moral and ethical traditions of Africa, compassion, accountability, and Ubuntu.

During the panel session on Inter-Regional Dialogue on Peacebuilding, AACC's emphasized that peace cannot be reactive but transformative. Drawing lessons from the Church of Uganda's reconciliation efforts and AACC's own grassroots peace models, panelists painted a vision of nonviolence that begins in communities and grows upward from healing wounds to reshaping institutions.

In the Climate Justice sessions, Dr. Tinashe Gumbo reminded delegates of an inconvenient truth: Africa contributes less than 4% to global emissions yet bears the heaviest burden. His call for a *"just green transition"* echoed for reparative justice, inclusion, and ecological accountability.

From fiscal justice to gender equality, speakers like Prof. Tim Murithi, Dr. Jide Martyns Okeke, Ms. Marie Louise Baricako, and Christian Aid's Adrian Chikowore carried forward AACC's advocacy for ethical leadership and people-centered governance. They reminded the forum that democracy is not only about elections but also about ensuring every citizen, especially women and youth, can shape their nation's destiny. The outcomes of the meeting renewed partnerships between the AACC with the ECOSOCC, AU-CIDO, and grassroots CSOs to build a continent where justice and peace are intertwined.

AACC Participated in the G20 Interfaith Forum in South Africa



Dr. Gorden contributing to a panel discussion at the G20 Interfaith Forum

The G20 Interfaith Forum, under the banner **“Ubuntu in Action: Focus on Vulnerable Communities,”** took place in Cape Town, South Africa, on August 10-14, 2025. The AACC was represented by Dr. Gorden Simango, the Director Liaison Office to the African Union & Advocacy, who was featured in a panel that reflected on the Keynote Address from Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, winner of the AACC Human Rights Award of 2023.

For the five days of the G20 Interfaith Forum, over 200 delegates wrestled with the world’s most pressing crises of hunger, equity in the finance architecture, interreligious action, colonial legacies, the inclusion of women and youth and ethics in the use of Artificial Intelligence.

The panel with Dr. Gorden focused on **“Faith, Justice, and Shared Responsibility in a Fractured World.”** he anchored the high-level dialogue in moral clarity: **“We have a Shared Humanity.**

This calls us to a moral imperative for global cooperation,” Gorden declared. The centerpiece of his appeal was the African philosophy of Ubuntu: **‘I am because we are.’** He reminded delegates that a bird flies on two wings, emphasizing that national interest and the common good were Siamese twins. He stressed that without ethical commitment, global efforts to **“Leave No One Behind”** were meaningless.

On environment and climate change, Dr. Gorden noted it was a moral issue. *“The Welfare of the earth is our Welfare,”* he urged, demanding protection of the earth from those who commodify and exploit nature for profit. He pressed for ambitious emission reduction targets and financial commitment to the Global South, where countries, especially in Africa, suffer disproportionately. His message was stark: *“If we throw mud at the earth, it will throw mud back at us, but it will be in a more intense way.”*

His ethical framework extended to the economy; his plea to the delegates was clear, *“Economics must have Ethics.”* He called for a challenge to exploitative practices, advocating for fair trade, debt relief, and a preferential option for the downtrodden. This gathering, he insisted, *“must demand the reformation of global financial institutions to center the needs of those pushed to the periphery.”* Furthermore, in dealing with migration, his call was to protect people more than borders, thus resisting policies that criminalize and weaponize human movement.

Gorden ended his interventions on the panel by echoing the Sermon on the Mount by saying, **“Love your neighbor – regardless.”** A challenge to ensure the decisions made in the coming autumn G20 Summit of November 2025 in Johannesburg truly reflect the dignity and interconnectedness of all people.

AACC Hosted a Virtual Session on Elections and Governance



On Friday, 26 September 2025, the AACC held a virtual Africa Regional Webinar on Elections and Governance, focusing on How to Engage Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs). Fifty-six participants attended.

“Africa belongs to us as Africans, and we owe it a credible, fair, and transparent election.” Gordon Simango, Director of the AACC Liaison Office to the African Union & Advocacy, said to kick start the webinar.

The panel discussion, moderated by Advocate Tibonge Namwai Ng’ambi, featured Ambassador Salah Siddig Hammad, Mr. Frederick Tetteh, Dr. Joyce Larko Steiner and Elizabeth Yanbasu. Amb. Salah Siddig Hammad, Head of the AGA-APSA Secretariat at the African Union, situated the

discussion within the framework of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) and its alignment with the African Union’s Agenda 2063. The ACDEG emphasizes the promotion of democratic culture and sustainable peace through the active engagement of all citizens in governance. Ambassador Salah emphasised that while progress has been made, much more is needed to ensure strong and credible EMBs across the continent.

Mr. Frederick Tetteh, Deputy Director, Research and Monitoring, Electoral Commission, Ghana, came second on the panel, reframing the crisis of African democracy, arguing that the core issue is not a failure of the democratic system itself, but rather a profound loss of confidence in governance and leadership.

In her presentation, Dr. Joyce Larko Steiner highlighted the Christian Council of Ghana's role as an institutional moral authority and watchdog, clarifying its legitimacy against less established groups. Founded in 1929, the Council has been central to governance throughout Ghana's constitutional history, proving its critical influence, notably in the 2008 elections when religious leaders intervened to ensure the prompt declaration of results, thereby successfully mitigating political conflict.

Elizabeth Yambasu summarized the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone's (CCSL) comprehensive strategy for building trust and promoting civic

engagement in the post-civil war era, utilizing both community-based outreach and modern technology.

As the engagement came to an end, participants questioned how churches could retain credibility when often perceived as aligned with ruling parties, to which Dr. Steiner and Mr. Tetteh insisted that faith leaders must maintain a strict non-partisan stance to serve as truly neutral voices. Participants highlighted the high cost of elections as a driver of corruption and a barrier to youth participation, leading to their manipulation for electoral violence.



AACC-CETA