



# THE AFRICAN PULSE

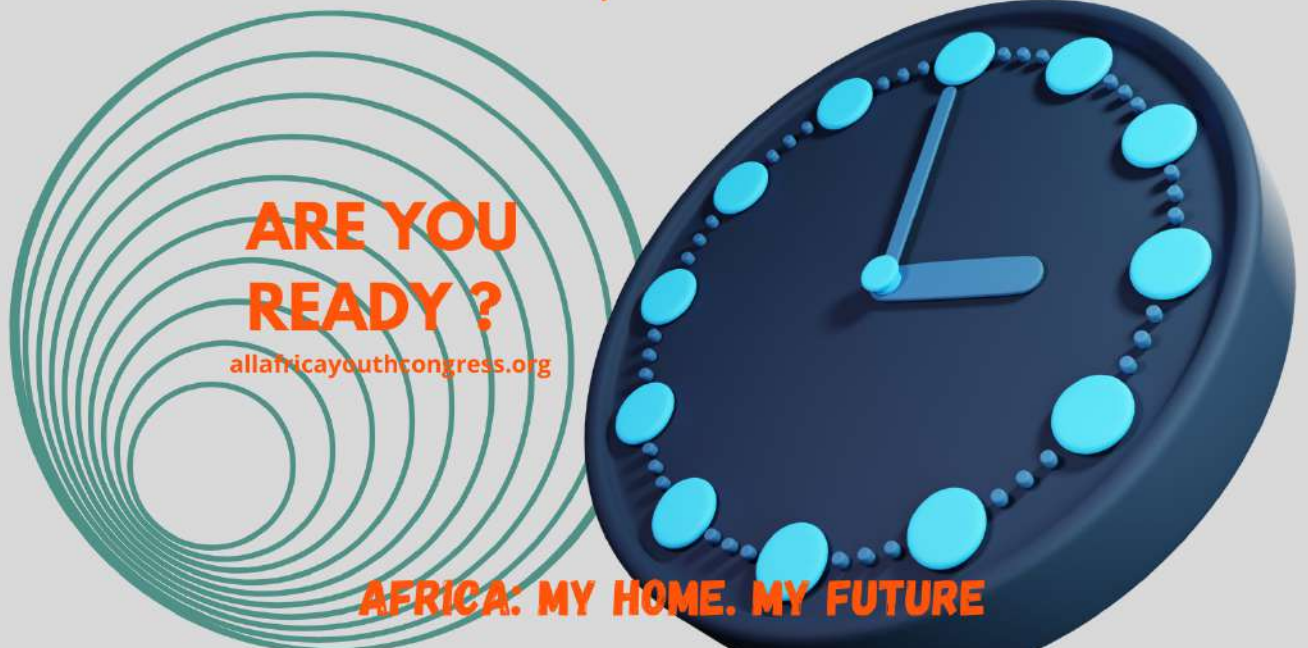
Voice of the African Ecumenical Movement



*A publication of The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)*

## Counting Down to the All Africa Youth Congress

*Count down*



**Oct 31st to Nov 5th 2022**



**Pentecost Convention Center, Accra Ghana**

**African Patriotism**

**Active Citizenship**

**Justice & Security**

**African Dignity**

*Africa: My Home. My Future.*

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# EDITORIAL

ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

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All Africa Conference of Churches



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All Africa Conference of Churches

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

*AACC is a continental ecumenical body that accounts for over 200 million Christians across the continent. AACC is the largest association of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and Indigenous churches in Africa and is a member of the worldwide ecumenical network. AACC is a fellowship of 206 members comprising of Churches, National Councils of Churches (NCCs), theological and lay training institutions and other Christian organizations in 43 African countries.*

# Message From The General Secretary



**Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki**

In the past months, the Lord has led the AACC to implement several activities which we are delighted to share with our stakeholders in this issue of “The African Pulse.” The restrictions of Covid 19 pandemic is behind us. We can once again conference and interact, thus building our fellowship as we strive to work for the benefit of Africa, respecting the dignity and image of God in every human being.

Among many activities which all the colleagues in our three offices have been performing excellently, there are events in which I had an opportunity to take part in. Many have independent articles in this issue. But there are two which I would like to very much focus on.



**From Left, Jonah Ojjala, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki and Brian Muyunga who was elected into the Central Committee and Executive Committee of WCC, nominated by AACC.**

First, is, of course, the World Council of Churches (WCC) General Assembly (GA) in Karlsruhe, Germany. I had an opportunity to speak at the “pre-consultation” which was organized in Hamburg before the Assembly, on the subject of healing. After that, I joined the thousands of Christians in Karlsruhe for the GA itself. It was a marvellous event, about which it is difficult to report due to its multi-faceted themes and engagements. We saw how development in digital technology has changed how we hold meetings. We had a lot to learn as we prepare for our own General Assembly next year. From registration, accommodation, identification of participants, agenda, programs, etc. Each person had personalized access to an app, where everything was tailored individually. But we also saw the challenges which come with this technology.

The Africa delegation was huge. The coordination of the AACC with WCC was good, particularly to prepare for elections. The Africa Regional Meeting easily and unanimously nominated only one name for President for Africa, H. H. Dr. Rufus Ositelu. It was remarkable in that it is the first time a President comes from an African Instituted Church (The Church of The Lord Worldwide - Aladula), Nigeria. AACC congratulates him, as he is a member of our General Committee and Executive Committee. We congratulate all other representatives of Africa as well and wish them fruitful leadership.

In the elections, AACC nominated Mr. Brian Muyunga, a theology student from Uganda, and he was elected to the Central Committee. The Central Committee elected him to be a member of the Executive Committee as well. We know Brian through different engagements in the programs of AACC, and we are happy that he becomes one of the young students of the ecumenical movement.



# Message From The General Secretary



**Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki**

As we gear towards the All Africa Youth Congress, we look forward to meeting hundreds of young people who are determined to make Africa their home, their future.

The world is experiencing a frightening increase in the cost of living everywhere. In Africa, we continue to suffer from the effects of climate change like droughts and floods, as well as concomitant famine in many parts. Exacerbated by the effects of Russia's war in Ukraine, we know churches are also experiencing hardships. Let us keep praying and working. Giving up is not an option.



**New WCC presidents elected at the WCC 11th Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany:**  
**Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat-Lebang (Asia), Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith (North America), Rev. François Phiaatae (Pacific), Rev. Dr. Rufus Okikiola Ositelu (Africa), H.E. Metropolitan Dr Vasilios of Constantia - Ammochostos (Eastern Orthodox), Rev. Philip Silvin Wright (Caribbean and Latin America), Rev. Dr. Susan Durber (Europe). Not pictured: H.H. Catholicos Aram I (Oriental Orthodox).**  
**Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC**

The second event is the “Act of Confession and Launch of the Onesimus Project.” This is a program of the Council for World Mission, which invited me to attend the event in South Africa. It was remarkable because it focuses mainly on the role of nations and mission agencies in either actively or passively enabling acts of humiliation of Africans, particularly slavery and colonialism. Act of confession because in several places churches or missions were either part of these or failed to stop them due to complacency or ignorance or theological rationalization. We need to move beyond the past, but we must not deny the past. The name itself shows the gist of the program. Onesimus was formally a slave, but Paul says, he is now a free and a very useful servant of God, whom Paul calls a brother.



**Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki with Rev. Prof. Jooseup Keum, General Secretary of Council for World Mission during Launch of the Onesimus Project in South Africa.**

General Secretariat

# World Religious Leaders Congregate for the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions

The 7th Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, which took place in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan from September 14 to September 15, 2022, was attended by Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, General Secretary of the AACC. A delegation of more than 100 religious leaders from more than 50 nations participated in the Congress, which the Government of Kazakhstan organized. The congress put a lot of emphasis on how religious leaders might promote spiritual and social growth.

Rev. Dr. Mwombeki discussed the background of Christianity and religion in general in Africa when speaking at the congress. "There are numerous religions in Africa, and most of them are represented here. Many Africans practice world religions, particularly Christianity and Islam. Other major global religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism, are also practiced in some countries." Rev. Dr. Mwombeki stated.

Rev. Dr. Mwombeki also urged world religious leaders to ensure that Africa does not fall behind as the world becomes more global. "We must work together to ensure that, as the world becomes more globalized, Africa is not left behind." As the world faces numerous challenges, we have realized that global mobilization of funds for development is possible when there is commitment. We wonder where the developed world has found unprecedented resources to address conflict in Europe, which has global ramifications, such as caring for refugees and displaced people, while the same problems persist.

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev officially launched the congress, noting that it has provided a global platform for inter-civilizational dialogue. The Roman Catholic Church's Pope Francis also attended the congress. The invitation to the Congress recognizes the AACC as a major representative of African Christians on global platforms.



*The participants of the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions*



*Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki giving his speech during the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.*

General Secretariat

# Evangelical Church of Gabon Holds Its Annual Synod



**Rev. Angele Dogbe**

The Evangelical Church of Gabon (EEG) held its Annual Synod in Libreville, Gabon, from July 21st to July 31st, 2022. The AACC was asked to accompany and guide the process, as well as make recommendations to the synod of the Evangelical Church of Gabon (EEG). Rev. Angele Wilson-Dogbe, the Regional Coordinator of the Lomé Regional Office, represented the AACC and delivered a goodwill message on its behalf of the General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki.

The EEG reflected on the theme "Do everything in the name of Jesus Christ and not for men" Colossians 3:17-23 throughout the synod. The AACC congratulated the Church on the theme chosen, saying it was timely given what is happening around the world and our attitude as God's people. By choosing this theme, the Church reminded God's people that we are to demonstrate our faith and act as responsible Christians who are mindful of the well-being and dignity of their brothers and sisters, as well as their neighbors, with respect and without compromising our faith to please men.

Rev. Louis Sylvain Allogo Engo was elected President of the EEG's synod during the synod.



*Rev. Angele Wilson-Dogbe delivering the AACC goodwill message. Standing by her side, Mme Pauline Ndong Nze, General Committee Member.*



*Rev. Dr. Alagbada raising the constitution and other relevant document handed over to him by the General Secretary of the Church.*



AACC-CETA

# AACC's 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly And 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

**Theme: “The Love of Christ  
Compels Us”, (2 Corinthians 5: 14)**

**DATE: 17th Nov 2023 to 23rd Nov 2023**

**PRE-MEETINGS: (Women, Youth): 15th Nov  
2023 to 17th Nov 2023**

**Email: [GA-Abuja@aacc-ceta.org](mailto:GA-Abuja@aacc-ceta.org)**

[aacc-ceta.org](http://aacc-ceta.org)



Human Resource Management

## The AACC Appoints New Staff



**Rev. Dr. John Njoroge**  
**Programme Executive - Theology**

He is an ordained minister serving as a priest in the Orthodox Diocese of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya Region –Kenya under the Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria. He holds a Diploma in Theology, Bachelors in Theology from Bossey Ecumenical Institute, Master of Arts (MA) in Intercultural Theology from St. Radboud University of Nijmegen and a Doctoral Degree in Biblical Missiology from Aristotle University- Thessaloniki among other qualifications. He comes with a wealth of experience in Theology and Interfaith relations.

## The AACC Staff Transition

**Prof. Bosela Eale**

Prof Bosela served as The Director, Theology, Interfaith Relations & Ecclesial Leadership Development from 2016, and has left the AACC effective 30th June 2022. Prof Bosela's contribution to AACC was immense and he will definitely be missed. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



**Mr. Collins Shava**

Mr. Collins Shava served as The Executive Secretary, of Youth from 2019, and has left the AACC effective 30th June 2022. Mr. Shava's contribution to AACC was immense and he will definitely be missed. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



## Addressing Misleading Theologies



Rev. Dr. John Njoroge

The AACC through its Department of Theology, Interfaith Relations, and Ecclesial Leadership Development is committed to promoting proper theology that is contextual and relevant to the life of people in the African context. Correct and sound doctrine is crucial to salvation and growth in spiritual maturity and this is why AACC continues to accompany member churches and theological institutions to address emerging misleading theologies in modern Africa. Following this commitment, the AACC since 2019 has been holding annual theological symposiums on Misleading Theologies. The 4th symposium under the theme "Addressing Contextual Theologies of Power and Authority in African Churches" was held at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre (DTCC), Nairobi, Kenya from 20th to 22nd September 2022. It was attended by 63 participants who included church leaders, women, youth, and theologians from across Africa.

Participants acknowledged that God is the source of power and authority and the purpose of the power is for Christians to be witnesses to Christ and enhance the gospel's propagation (Mat 28:18-20). However, some clergy have been abusing power in religious practices and have instrumentalized power to exclude others.



**Participants of the 4th Misleading Theologies Symposium on Power and Authority on 20th September 2022**

The fourth symposium provided participants with an opportunity to engage in a broad discussion about misrepresentation and misapplication of scripture on God's divine authority and power; explore further into works of divine authority and power in a church leader, preacher, or prophet application and misinterpretation of tempting biblical teachings on divine authority and power; The impact of authority and power on human psychology, spirituality, and resources in African churches; African cosmological understanding of authority and power; application of the theology of divine power and authority in an African church context; and the emergence of the phenomenon of "CEO" model of leadership in the continent's ecclesial landscape.

Participants condemned the abuse of power and authority by clergy and agreed that power and authority should be properly understood and taught and practiced for stewardship and service. Power should be exercised according to God's word, and power and authority that do not affirm and uphold life should be unmasked. Papers presented will be collated, peer-reviewed and will be published in the future into a book on contextual Theologies of Power and Authority in African Churches.



**Participants of the 4th Misleading Theologies Symposium keenly following on the proceedings of the symposium**

# Strengthening the Capacity of AACC's Male Champions for Gender Justice



Ms. Ann Kioi



**Participants of Capacity Strengthening Workshop for Male Champions for Gender Justice in Malawi**

The AACC is engaging men to promote gender justice and women empowerment with the objective of increasing men's participation in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa. The AACC recognizes that Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 and African Union (AU) agenda 2063 Aspiration 6 cannot be achieved fully without the involvement of men who are the majority in leadership and decision-making positions in religious, communities, economic, and even political spheres. Men are critical allies for gender equality and are often strong drivers for change, especially in patriarchal societies. They can contribute to the transformation of toxic masculinities into transformative masculinities among men and boys. AACC has established six (6) platforms of male champions for gender justice in pilot African countries namely Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, Malawi, Togo, and Uganda. The AACC accompanies these Platforms by strengthening their capacities to advocate for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE).

Arising from the above, the AACC in collaboration with the Council of Churches in Malawi, the Synod Moderator Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Blantyre (CCAP) Blantyre Synod, and the AACC Platform of Male Champions in Malawi, organized a three days workshop in Blantyre to strengthen the Capacity of the Male Champions in Malawi to Advocate for GEWE with focus on Justice for Widows. This workshop took place from 19th -21st July 2022 at the Grace Bandawe Conference Centre. It was a follow-up to the successful commemoration of International Widows' Day which took place on 23rd June 2022 in Lilongwe where the male champions participated. The workshop in Blantyre was attended by 23 participants who included the AACC Male Champions in Malawi, Chiefs, traditional leaders, and religious leaders as well as two representatives of people living with disability.

The main objective was to strengthen the capacity of the Male Champions to advocate for GEWE, create awareness about the plight of widows in Malawi, disseminate the AACC's Advocacy Tool kit for Justice for Widows to facilitate its operationalization in Malawi, and deepen their understanding of the dynamics of gender justice within the context of SDGs 5, AU agenda 2063 Aspiration 6 and religious basis for Gender Justice.

At the end of the meeting, the Male Champions came up with a statement of commitment where they committed themselves to strongly fight for justice for widows, orphans, the girl child, and vulnerable children by using the constitutional law

through awareness activities and advocating for law enforcement. They also made commitments to be champions of gender justice, calling for an elimination of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) & harmful practices such early child marriage, widows' rituals. Further, they vowed to take advantage of any activity that gathers people together happening in their community- e.g. funerals, humanitarian meetings by other partners, etc to spread Gender Justice messages, create support systems as well as recruit more male champions and build a strong movement of male champions of gender justice.



*Some of The Male Champions During the Workshop*

Youth and African Patriotism

# Count Down to the All Africa Youth Congress



Mr. Daniel Orog

### The Count Down Begins

With less than 15 days left until the All Africa Youth Congress 2022, the youth are upbeat about their attendance and participation in the maiden All Africa Youth Congress organized by The AACC from 31 October-5 November at the Pentecost Convention Centre in Gomoa Fetteh, Ghana. At the end of October 2022, more than 1200 young people will be headed to Accra Ghana, by air and road, and with the representation from the Diaspora, the youth congress will indeed be a timely and historic event.

Indeed, the young people are excited as seen on our social media pages - “When something good is about to happen, people begin to count down. Likewise, the 31st of October to the 5th of November 2022 will mark a good moment for the youths at Accra Ghana” - Joseph Dimas a Nigerian youth on Twitter

### What do we expect at the Congress?

A colorful opening ceremony replete with flag trooping from 43 Africa Countries, a special presentation of the congress theme poems and songs, arrival of the climate justice touch on the way to COP27, welcoming address, and unveiling the congress by the Presidency of the Republic of Ghana, AAYC Grand patron H. E. Olusegun Obasanjo, an electrifying message from the Africa Youth,

welcoming speech by the AACC General Secretary and goodwill messages from dignitaries, African Union representatives, members of parliament and youth envoys.

The Congress is organized into four daily main plenary sessions focusing on the main themes of the Congress namely Promoting Youth and African Patriotism, Campaigning for African Dignity, Ensuring Peace, Justice, and security, and fostering active citizenship, Additionally, the 24 workshops and side events discussions on the sub-themes. The AAYC has planned 2 Round tables, one with a renowned African entrepreneur and Africa Union Envoy.

According to Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel, AACC Director of Programmes, The AACC have been listening to young people who want to address so many contemporary issues, among them irregular migration, human trafficking, and migrant smuggling. The Congress therefore will provide a viable space for youth in Africa and the diaspora to dialogue and find solutions to critical issues affecting the present and the future of the congress concerning important themes namely citizenship, human dignity, peace, security, gender justice, climate change, inequalities, injustices, health, and human rights. Simbarashe Hunzwi a Zimbabwean youth, confirms that the real movers and shakers of our species have all been on the same journey - the journey of consciousness development. .



### Youth and African Patriotism

The All Africa Youth Congress is a space for young people to venture on this journey for a better continent and future. The evening cultural nights and African Celebration night will offer a space for elegant cultural displays and expression of the diversity of African Cultural heritage

In conclusion, the All Africa Youth Congress 2022 is no doubt the maiden youth congress to be ever held in the Africa Continent. The opportunities provided by congress are enormous and are worth investing time and resources into. Many youths from the Africa Continent have indeed applied, ongoing with the payment of congress registration fee, purchasing of their flight tickets and booking buses to travel to Ghana, volunteering to stewards and ushers, participating in congress working group, in the theme songs, poems, and Social media popularization.

#### H.E Nana Akufo-Addo Hosts AAYC Delegation

As a build-up to the congress, The General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki led a delegation to meet with the President of Ghana, H.E Nana Akufo-Addo, to brief him on the forthcoming All Africa Youth Congress taking place in Ghana from 31st Oct to 5th Nov 2022. The President kindly accepted the invitation to grace the opening ceremony on 1.11.2022 and to support the Congress. The GS was accompanied by The Most Rev. Dr. Paul Kwabena Boafo, the Presiding Bishop of The Methodist Church Ghana, Dr. Rev. Dr. Cyril Fayose General Secretary of Christian Council of Ghana, Mr. Daniel Orogo Congress Coordinator, as well as Ms. Tracy Nyarko & Ms. Juliet Akuamoah Boateng representing the youth.

#### #AfricaMyHomeMyFuture



*From left to right, Mr. Daniel Orogo – coordinator All Africa Youth congress, Ms. Tracy Nyarko, Rev. Dr. Cyril Fayose, The General Secretary of the Christian Council in Ghana, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, AACC General Secretary, H.E Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana, Most Rev. Dr. Paul Kwabena Boado, the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Ghana, and Ms. Akosua Frema Osei Opare, Ghana's Chief of staff and Ms. Juliet Akuamoah During the Meeting at Jubilee House Accra, Ghana.*

Peace

# Accompanying South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda



Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel



**Group Photo of the Rev. Dr. Lesmore with some members of the United South Sudanese Urban Refugees Community**

Rev. Dr. Lesmore Gibson Ezekiel, Director of Programmes for the AACC visited the United South Sudanese Urban Refugees Community (USSURC) in Kampala, Uganda on the 26th July 2022.

The AACC facilitated the implementation of a capacity-building project in Kampala for South Sudanese urban refugees, with a focus on women and youth. The project aims to provide skill development programs for unemployed South Sudanese urban refugees based in Kampala.

The project's main goal is to empower and build resilient communities among South Sudanese urban refugees so that both refugees and host communities can live with dignity while learning basic skills in tailoring, computer literacy (adult education), psychosocial support, and entrepreneurship. In Uganda, there are over one million South Sudanese refugees. The vast majority are women and children fleeing three years of brutal civil war and a severe food crisis. Some of these refugees have made their way here Urban Refugee Community in Kampala, Uganda for self-help purposes. The AACC project offers accompaniment to these communities, hence the visit of Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel to assess the immediate impact of the support.

Kampala has recently seen an increase in the number of urban refugees, the majority of whom are young women and girls. This population has no educational foundation, and their refugee status contributes to the high rate of school dropout among them. Their vulnerability grows as a result of a lack of proper education and sustainable livelihood skills, particularly in a foreign context. Unfortunately, some of the young refugees engage in risky behavior, resulting in frequent arrests by police. Furthermore, these young people come from families where their parents are not economically viable or sustainable. It becomes extremely difficult for them to care for their families. Against this backdrop, the project was created to assist these refugees, particularly, especially youth and women by empowering them with skills for self-sustenance either in Kampala Uganda, or upon repatriation.

The project currently has a total of 184 beneficiaries. The beneficiaries applauded the AACC for the initiative that has contributed immensely to the transformation of their lives.

Peace

# Deepening A Culture of Peace Before, During and After Elections.



Rev. Charles Berahino

Kenya held its general elections on August 9, 2022. Kenyans voted for the President, members of the National Assembly and Senate, county governors, and members of Kenya's 47 county assemblies. The AACC collaborated with the National Council of Churches (NCCCK) to observe these elections as part of its mandate to deepen democratic governance in Africa and maintain an ecumenical pastoral presence for reconciliation and peace. All of the observers nominated by AACC were accredited by the NCCCK. The AACC dispatched nine observers.

The mission began with an orientation prepared in partnership with the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA). The orientation took place at DTCC from 6th August 2022 to 7th August 2022. Apart from understanding the context surrounding elections in Kenya, the event also focused on the use of tools for the collection and compilation of electoral data.

Following the orientation, the team met with Rev. Canon Chris Kinyanjui, General Secretary of the Council of Churches of Kenya, to get an update on the council's readiness to accompany the electoral process.

The AACC observers witnessed the opening of the polls on August 9, the day of the elections.



**AACC Observers at Westlands Primary School During the Kenyan General Elections**



**AACC Observers at the Situation Room at the National Council of Churches offices, courtesy of an ELOG initiative**

The team spent the day visiting polling stations in Nairobi and Kiambu Counties. The observers also witnessed the closing, where ballots were counted and recorded correctly on the appropriate forms.

During the day, the observers had the opportunity to visit the Situation Room at the National Council of Churches offices, courtesy of an ELOG initiative (Elections Observation Group) Kenya and the National Council of Churches in Kenya. They were taken through the various activities undertaken to timely and appropriately ensure monitoring of the elections.

It was calm throughout in general. Voting took place, and privacy was ensured. Election officials correctly managed the process in each polling station the team visited, giving preference to certain categories such as elderly voters, breastfeeding mothers, pregnant women, and individuals with impairments. Party agents were also there throughout the entire process to monitor it, and in each of the polling places the team visited, they worked cooperatively with election officials. Additionally, present in the polling places, security personnel kept the peace without meddling in the election.

In a nutshell, of all the places the observers visited on election day, the election was well prepared, election material was available and the Kenya Integrated Election Management System (KIEMS) functioned well.



Peace

## Statement By The AACC On The Recent Coup In Burkina Faso

**Nairobi: 05th October 2022**

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) strongly condemns the military coup that occurred in Burkina Faso on September 30, 2022.

The coup in Burkina Faso is a sad development and a shame to the African continent. The AACC is mindful of how these coup d'états have over the years negatively affected the development of the African continent. They are a drawback to Africa's development.

Foreign elements and invisible powers continue to exploit weak African states by providing guns and ammunition to fuel armed conflicts and capturing governmental machinery to exploit Africa's natural resources. This, AACC equally condemns and urges the international community, including African states to urgently address this phenomenon.

In denouncing the coup in Burkina Faso, the AACC urges a refrain from acts that threaten the civil liberties and human dignity of citizens. AACC calls for an urgent transition of the country to civilian and democratic rule in line with the tenets and the spirit of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG) which Burkina Faso ratified in 2010. This will help to restore hope to the people. Africa and the people of Burkina Faso deserve better.

The AACC upholds prayers for Burkina Faso, and for its member churches, and citizens during these trying times.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

**Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**

Peace

## Statement By The AACC On Russia's Annexation Of Regions In Ukraine

**Nairobi: 07th October 2022**

The All Africa Conference of Churches standing united and in solidarity with Churches and all other religious bodies across the world strongly condemn Russia's annexation of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine.

The unjustified actions of Russia continue to heighten the state of insecurity globally and such disregard and breach of International Law and State Sovereignty only serves as a precedent for other ambitious leaders to embark on primitive conquest adventures

We call on the UN, African Union and the International Community to condemn and reject Russia's illegal annexation of the Regions in Ukraine.

To the many people who have lost loved ones and continue to live in misery because of the reckless and prolonged war, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

**Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**



Peace

## Statement By The AACC on Peace Talks For Peace In Ethiopia

**Nairobi, 11th October 2022**

The All Africa Conference of Churches is pleased by the recent positive development where both Ethiopia's government and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) have accepted an invitation by the African Union to participate in the very first peace talks aimed at ending a two-year conflict that killed thousands of civilians and uprooted millions.

The AACC believes that peace talks can create a foundation for an eventual agreement to end conflict and hence reduce harm to communities. It therefore commends and congratulates the African Union for this great move. The AACC encourages the team of mediators under the leadership of Olusegun Obasanjo, the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa, with support from former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and former South African deputy president Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka to create conditions for the peace talks to be as inclusive as possible for a public acceptance and come up with an agreement which will create a mutual gain for all the parties.

The AACC calls on all people of faith to uphold prayers for the peace talks and is ready and available for any other related accompaniment in its capacity.

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

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

**Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**

Climate Change

# Africa Faith Actors Network on Climate Justice Attends Africa Climate Week in Gabon



**Dr. Tinashe Gumbo**



**Members of the AACC's Africa Faith Actors Network on Climate Justice while in Gabon for The Africa Climate Week**

The Africa Climate Week (ACW) 2022 was hosted by the Government of Gabon from 29 August to 2 September 2022. The 2022 ACW was key as the COP 27 will be held in Africa (Egypt). The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) utilised the platform for the amplification of its work on climate change through the Africa Faith Actors Network on Climate Change (AFAN-CJ) in Libreville, Gabon. The AFAN-CJ fulfilled a number of sessions in collaboration with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA); Christian Aid and ACT Alliance. Some of the sessions were held prior to the official opening of the ACW while side events also allowed the AFAN-CJ members to share their perspectives on climate justice with a wider audience across the globe.

Firstly, the network members attended the high-level meeting in which they interacted with key stakeholders who included Government Officials from Africa; civil society; academia; African Negotiators; Faith leaders, and individual climate justice activists. The AACC Director of Programmes, Rev. Dr. Lesmore Gibson Ezekiel participated in one of the panel discussions and reiterated that “issues of climate change are issues of life and death”. His presentation was informed by the AACC’s theme of “The Welfare of the Earth is Our Welfare” as adopted from Jeremiah 27 Vs 7.

The AFAN-CJ also participated in public events that were meant to raise awareness on climate justice issues. These included public marches and speeches delivered to the Minister of Environment in Gabon.

The Faith and Climate Justice Day was the climax event for the AFAN-CJ. This was attended by faith leaders (Muslim and Christians), civil society, academia, African Negotiators and other stakeholders. The session was characterized by presentations from AFAN-CJ, African Union Representatives; Civil Society, and other experts on environmental issues. There were also some capacity-building sessions where the faith leaders were educated on key Climate Change negotiation processes. A joint Communique with PACJA was developed from this session.

The delegation paid courtesy visits to local faith leaders who included AACC member churches and the Muslim Community. The visits were hugely appreciated by local faith leaders who also shared their solidarity messages on the work of faith leaders on climate change. Trees were planted as a show of commitment to creation care.



**Members of the AACC's Africa Faith Actors Network planting a tree during the Africa Climate Week in Gabon.**



## Climate Change

## Climate Yes Campaign Launched



Mr. Cyprian Kiteng'e

In November 2021, a group of young Christian Climate activists between the age of 18-30 years met in Glasgow, Scotland during the 26th Conference of the Parties. The urge to hold political leaders accountable for the decisions made at COP26 brought together this group of young activists from different countries, organisations, and denominations to form the Climate YES Movement. The main objective of the movement is to create an inclusive Global Ecumenical Youth Climate community with representatives from the global North and the Global South. The ecumenical community provides a platform for young Christian activists to share their environmental concerns and their daily life experiences with the climate crisis in addition to reflecting on key outcomes of previous Conference of the Parties and speaking with one voice to decision-makers about what the youth feel must be done next to advocate for climate Justice.

The Climate YES Movement organised its first consultative Climate Youth Ecumenical Summit on 16th September 2022 and 17th September 2022 in five regional hubs which were hybrid events incorporating both physical and virtual participation. The summit gathered over hundred young climate activists in Italy, the United Kingdom, Malawi, South Africa, and Kenya to reflect on key climate issues facing them and evaluate the promises made by heads of states in Glasgow, and deliberate on the way forward towards the COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. During the Summit, the ecumenical group of young climate activists launched the YES Campaign to spearhead discussions towards the 27th Conference of the Parties in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on 6th – 18th November 2022.

One of the key emerging topics of discussion during the summit included the catastrophic climate-induced loss and damage which has led to the deleterious human crisis in most of the poor and underdeveloped countries globally, the impacts of which include;

hunger and famine, unprecedented loss of life and property due to calamities including floods and cyclones among many current climatic issues reported every day in our social media. In addition, the young generation, mindful of the future generation, expressed high concern for the impacts of fossil fuels on livelihoods and the environment. The young climate activists believe that fossil fuel exploration is a threat to their lives and the lives of their children and their children's children. The Climate YES Campaign, therefore, is a call to all young Christians and people of faith to join hands and combine efforts to fight climate injustices with solidarity and unity strengthened by the common bond of faith.

As an important outcome of the consultative summit, the young Christian activists are working to consolidate a joint statement that will include their demands to heads of states to address the issues affecting them as a community. The statement will be delivered to heads of states and church leaders in Sharm El-Sheikh Egypt during the UNFCCC 27th Conference of the Parties. "Young people demand Change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded" Pope Francis, 2015.



Participants of the Launch of Climate YES Campaign

Advocacy for Economic Justice and the New Debt Crisis

# Amplifying the Fight Against Corruption: A Network of Ecumenical Anti-Corruption Champions Commissioned.



Dr. Tinashe Gumbo

The AACC held a Continental Stakeholders Dialogue Meeting on Public Accountability and New Debts Crises in Africa from 22nd August 2022 to 26th August 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya under the theme: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition...Consider others first” (Philippians 2:3). The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate the capacity strengthening of member churches to effectively engage key stakeholders including African governments on public debts and corruption.

The Church leaders acknowledged that African countries are currently reeling under unsustainable public debts that are owed to individual countries and other international financial institutions. The leaders noted that new debts have continued to balloon in the last few years with the climax being during the COVID-19 period. Furthermore, many African natural and mineral resources continue to leave the continent through illicit means and unsustainable debt servicing thereby breeding economic injustices whose moral implications are a major concern for the Church.

Participants of the meeting included youth, women, men, and Ministers of Religion. Experts and relevant key stakeholders drawn from civil society, the African Union, Academia, Governments, and Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission members from African Countries facilitated the discussions.

The topics discussed were broadly on the Ethics of Debt and Accountability: A Call for Cultural Change in Africa’s Public Administration in Africa; Understanding Current Debates on Corruption and New Public Debt; Key Milestones, Challenges, Lessons, and Recommendations from the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC); Public Sector, Public Debt, Corruption and Civil Society Organizations Engagement for Social Accountability; Pandemics as a Source of Public Debt Accumulation: The Case of COVID-19; Domestic Resource Mobilization as an Alternative to Public Borrowing to Avoid New Debts; Fighting Corruption Through Effective National Auditing Systems as well as Active Citizenship and Advocacy for Social and Economic Justice.

In their statements, respective participants and speakers recalled and underscored the critical role of the Church in the pursuit of social and economic justice. They further reiterated the importance of transparency and accountability in natural resource management in Africa to curb illicit financial and mineral flows which perpetuate Africa’s indebtedness.

The main outcome of the meeting was the commissioning of the AACC Anti-Corruption Champions drawn from the member churches that attended the meeting. The Champions will be expected to spearhead the work of the AACC on public debt and anti-corruption in their respective countries. They will engage key stakeholders on these topics.

**Group Photo of the Participants of the Continental Stakeholders Dialogue Meeting on Public Accountability and New Debts Crises in Africa**



Population and Development

# AACC's Commitment to Sustainable Population Growth in the Continent



Ms. Fidelis Aluoch



**Group photo of the theological round table meeting participants**

The AACC held a Theological Round Table Meeting on Population and Demographic Dividend in Africa at the Hotel Africana from the 25th July 2022 to the 28th July 2022, under the theme: “Affirming the faith by taking care of the household” 1 Timothy 5:8. The meeting drew delegates from the AACC membership which included ecclesial officers, theologians, the youth and those in Diakonia services.

The round table meeting was an opportunity for delegates to reflect and engage in discussions on critical theological perspectives of rethinking the creation narrative on procreation, understanding the theology of the family, perspectives on theologies of responsibility and stewardship, and the theology of decent life. The delegates also theologized on sticky issues of family planning, birth control, and the use of contraceptives amongst Christians. There was reasoning together and consensus building among the delegates of the round table meeting.

The major outcome of the meeting was the development of an ecumenical theological framework on sustainable family and sustainable population growth for life-giving development. This framework would be used as the guiding tool in the population and development program for a dignified life in Africa.



**Rev. Dr. John Njoroge Giving a presentation on the Theology of Responsibility and stewardship During the Theological Round Table Meeting on Population and Demographic Dividend in Africa**

Migration and Trafficking in Persons

# Mitigating Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Persons



Rev. Angele Dogbe



*Group photo of the attendees of the West Africa Consultation on Irregular Migration, Trafficking in Persons, and Modern Slavery at the El Doria Hotel Lomé.*

In its pursuit of human dignity, the AACC organised a Consultation on Irregular Migration, Human Trafficking, and Modern Slavery for its constituents in West and Central Africa from the 5th to the 7th of July 2022 at El Doria Hôtel Lomé, Togo.

Delegates from AACC members in West and Central Africa, Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the African Union Migration Unit, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union Migration Observatory in Rabat, Morocco, and government policymakers attended the consultation.

The consultation's main goal was to "increase the capacity of AACC members in the two sub-regions in their advocacy efforts and collaborate with civil society and other relevant stakeholders on irregular migration, human trafficking, and other relevant issues." Morocco's Migration Observatory and government policymakers

The main goal of the consultation was to "increase the capacity of AACC members in the two sub-regions in their advocacy efforts and collaborate with civil society and other relevant stakeholders on irregular migration, human trafficking, and modern slavery." During the three days event, participants discussed the biblical perspective of irregular migration, trafficking in persons, and modern slavery, the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement and Trans-border Security in West Africa, and the African Migration Observatory. Presentations were also made on the link between irregular migration and HIV/AIDS, the link between statelessness and irregular migration as well as sharing some good practices from FBOs in both regions in the fight against the phenomenon.

The consultation resulted in the creation of a platform for AACC member churches to collaborate on advocacy on migration, human trafficking, and modern slavery, both among themselves and with CSOs and FBOs. Action plans were developed for churches and non-governmental organizations to get involved in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery.



Migration and Trafficking in Persons

# A day to Thwart, Reflect and Remember victims of Trafficking in Persons



Rev. Angele Dogbe



*A Group Photo of The in-person Participants of The Commemoration Of International Day Against Trafficking In Persons International Day Against*

On July 30, 2022, the AACC observed the International Day Against Trafficking in Persons along with the rest of the globe. Church officials, youth and women leaders, members of civil society, and Christian NGO organizations all attended the event. Participants in the commemoration discussed the theme chosen by the United Nations to honor this year's International Day Against Trafficking in Persons: "Use and Abuse of Technology."

It concentrated on how technology can be utilized as a tool to both facilitate and prevent human trafficking. Traffickers have access to a variety of tools via the internet and other digital platforms, which they can use to promote their victims, plan their transportation, exploit them and reach out to potential clients; communicate among perpetrators, and hide criminal proceeds – and all that with greater speed, cost-effectiveness, and anonymity.

During the commemoration, Barrister Justice Oman, Programme Executive - Research, Governance, and Human Rights - AACC Liaison Office to the AU, gave a brief overview of Agenda 2063 and linked Agenda 2063 to irregular migration with the theme; and Rev. Angèle Wilson-Dogbe, Regional Coordinator Lomé Office, gave a presentation on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons. The plenary session was interactive, with a lively question and answer session in which participants expressed legitimate concerns about their current situation and how their respective governments appear unconcerned. Barr. Justice and Rev. Angèle also took advantage of the opportunity to promote the upcoming AACC's All Africa Youth Congress, urging young people to register. Barr Oman guided the participants through the next steps, examining the role of the church and state in the fight against trafficking in persons as well as advocating for the implementation of agenda 2063.



Mr. Justice Oman

## The Role of Faith-Based Organisations In Election Monitoring Amplified.

The AACC, through its Liaison Office to the African Union (AU), participated in the AU Economic, Social, and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), Citizens Forum on Democracy, and Unconstitutional Change of Governments in Africa, which took place in Lusaka, Zambia, from the 11th to the 13th of July 2022.

The forum aimed to create a roadmap for civil society actors to follow to support the entrenchment of democratic values across the continent, as well as to provide a sustainable, relevant, coherent, effective, efficient, impactful, and sustainable platform for robust citizen engagement within the continental discourse on democracy and unconstitutional changes in government.

Participants of the forum discussed the role of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) in Implementing the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance and the nexus between insecurity, terrorism, and insurgency on the one hand and the creation of conditions conducive to UCG incidents.

Rev. Prof. Edwin Zulu, the AACC Vice President for Southern Africa presented a paper on the Role of FBOs in election monitoring and preventing the unconstitutional change of Governments in Africa. Participants agreed to revive and facilitate the annual Interfaith Dialogues and Mediation processes on conflict prevention through the AACC and The King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) Dialogue Center



Participants from AACC at the forum

# New Church Leaders



**Rev. Bernard Mojaki Kometsi**

**Moderator of the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa**

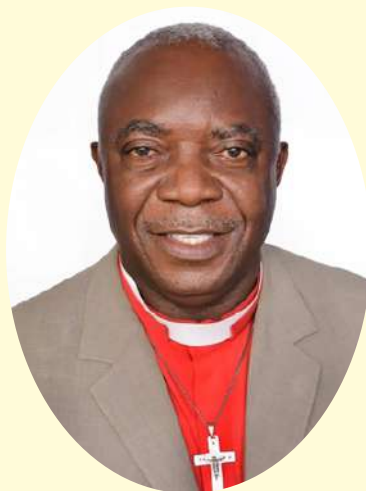
**Lesotho**



**Rev. Louis Sylvain Allogo Engo**

**President Evangelical Church of Gabon**

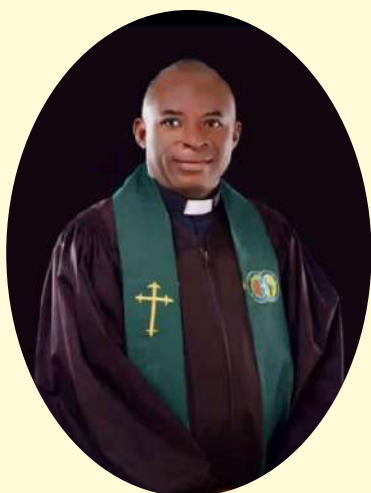
**Gabon**



**Rt. Rev. G. Victor Padmore**  
**Bishop**

**Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL)**

**Liberia**



**Rev. Akpanika, Ekpenyong Nyong**

**Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria (PCN)**

**Nigeria**



**Rev. Dr. Kavusa Kivatsi Jonathan**

**President ECC Communauté Baptiste au Centre de l'Afrique**

**Central Africa**



# DESMOND TUTU CONFERENCE CENTER



*Nestled within the ever growing Westlands Business District of Nairobi, and boasting of 104 delectably and comfortably furnished double and twin rooms, Desmond Tutu Conference Centre is your “MUST STAY and MEET” destination.*

*Complemented by 9 conference rooms with meeting capacities of between 10 – 800 participants and state of the art facilities, the hotel is ideal for both business and leisure. An onsite restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, while the gym within the compound can help you kick start the day or flex your muscles after a tiring day. Desmond Tutu Conference Centre is an affiliate of the All Africa Conference of Churches, the ecumenical body for all churches in Africa, and the hotel prides itself in this association as it is the pillar and guidance under whose visionary leadership, value is added to hospitality.*



## ROOMS

All the 104 rooms at Desmond Tutu Conference Centre combine comfort and simplicity to offer our guests peace and quiet after a day's long travel experience or business meeting. Each room is equipped with high resolution digital TV's and high speed complementary WIFI connectivity.



## CONFERENCING

Hotel boasts of a combined 1,169.5m<sup>2</sup> (12,588 ft<sup>2</sup>) of meeting space spread out across 9 rooms, all with natural lighting. Perfect venue for both small and intimate meetings of less than 10 to large gatherings of over 800 participants.

Facilities include state of the art Audio Visual equipment, Air Conditioning, Video conferencing services, Translation Booth and Simultaneous Voice Interpretation Equipment

## RESTAURANTS

The hotel has 2 onsite restaurants with a combined sitting capacity of 200 guests at any one time serviced by a team of professional chefs and service staff ready to deliver authentic dishes from the kitchens of Desmond Tutu Conference Centre.

The hotel equally provides an array of dishes for Off-Site Clientele.



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