



ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (AACC) CONFERENCE DES EGLISES DE TOUTE L'AFRIQUE (CETA)

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We Celebrate Rwanda for Removing Visa Restrictions on All African Citizens traveling to the Country

Recently, Rwanda took a historic step towards fostering unity, accessibility, and collaboration across our beautiful continent: Africa, when the government of Rwanda declared visa-free travel for all citizens of Africa visiting the Country. At the All Africa Conference of Churches, we applaud Rwanda on this momentous achievement and wish to express our unwavering support for this groundbreaking initiative.

For years, visa restrictions have limited the ability of African citizens to explore their own continent, engage in cross-border trade, and experience the richness of different cultures that make Africa unique, diverse, and vibrant. The African Union Agenda 2063 adopted by African heads of state in 2013 as the blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into a global powerhouse has a special focus on removing restrictions on Africans' ability to travel, work, and live within their own continent. Rwanda became the fourth African country to eliminate travel restrictions for Africans following the footsteps of Gambia, Benin, and Seychelles. We celebrate the four countries for demonstrating that it is possible to build the Africa We Want. In this mood, we also appreciate the Government of the Republic of Kenya for promising to remove visa restrictions on All African citizens visiting Kenya by 31 December 2023, and pray that all other African countries follow suit.

We call upon all African Youth, through the All Africa Youth Network to intensify their campaign for a visa-free Africa for All Africans running with the All Africa Youth Congress theme: *Africa: My Home. My Future.*, and for all duty bearers to commit to the realization of the goals, aspirations, and vision of the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. May the love of Christ compel each of us to be an agent of the positive changes needed in our families, communities, organizations, and countries for us to achieve the vision of a united Africa, and inspire us to build a continent where borders are bridges, and opportunities for growth and development are abundant for all.

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