



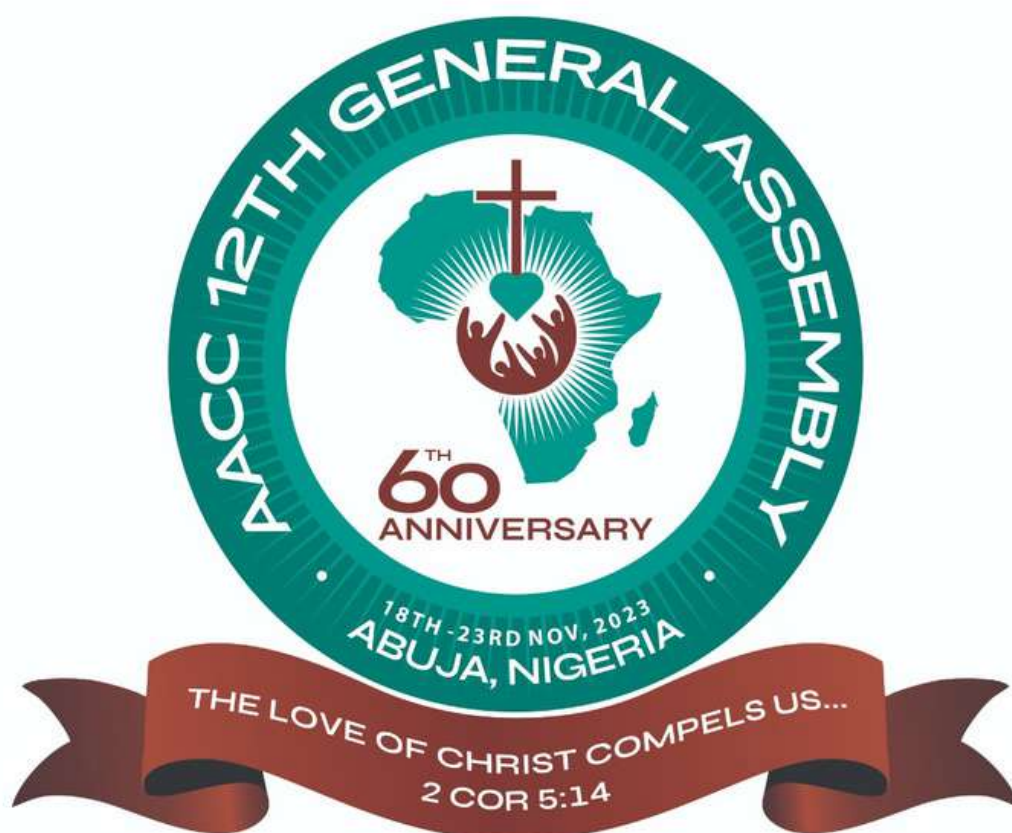
THE AFRICAN PULSE

Voice of the African Ecumenical Movement



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

2023, The year of the AACC's 12th General Assembly and 60th Anniversary Celebrations



Africa: My Home. My Future.

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EDITORIAL

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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.

General Secretariat

2023, The year of the AACC's 12th General Assembly

The General Assembly is the Supreme Legislative Authority of the AACC that meets every 5 years. The forthcoming 12th General Assembly, which will also mark the 60 years anniversary of the AACC, will be held in Nigeria in 2023 and it will represent a new milestone of the ecumenical movement in Africa. Nigeria is very significant as it is the home of the historic Ibadan Conference, which conceived this continental body. The Ibadan conference featured 200 delegates from 25 countries, eager to discuss the possibility of sustained ecumenical action in Africa. The Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN) hosted the Conference under the leadership of Sir Francis Akanu Ibiam, a Presbyterian educationist, physician, and ecumenist and then President of CCN. The most important commitment from Ibadan was the formation of a provisional committee whose job was to lay the foundation of the AACC to be the prime ecumenical thinking agent and common voice of the churches in Africa. The conference happened at a time when the continent was grappling with challenges of liberation, independence and decolonization.

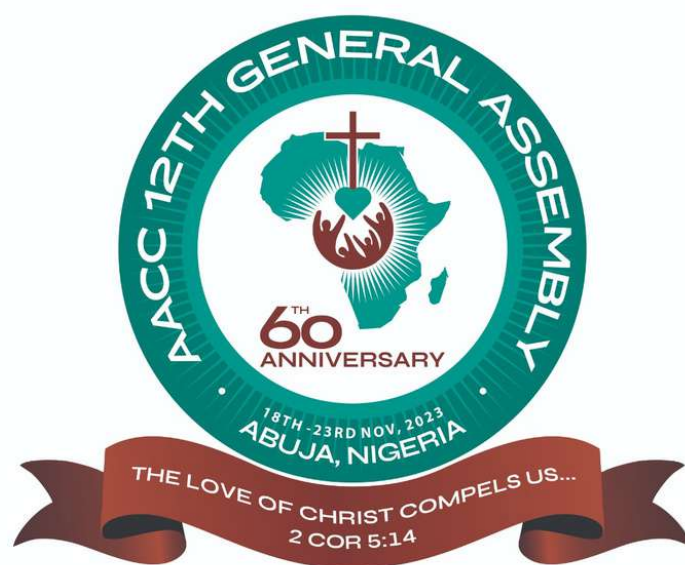
Approximately 900 participants, comprising Member Churches, Associate members and Sister Organisations, partners, Africans in the Diaspora, Special Guests, and Speakers are expected to attend the much-anticipated General Assembly convening under the theme “Christ’s Love Compels us...” which is derived from 2 Corinthians 5: 14.

There will also be women and youth pre-assemblies held before the main business session of the assembly. The participants will be drawn from women and youth delegates seconded by the churches. The groups will meet separately to discuss key issues affecting them in line with the theme of the assembly and at the end present a statement/message to the main plenary.

As a norm, there will be a “Theological Institute”, a program involving young theological students who meet and discuss various issues concerning

ecumenical engagement, theological education, and African pressing matters for churches. The Theological Institute will serve as an immersion into the ecumenical experience which these students will carry with them throughout their ministries.

The AACC's mission and vision will be strengthened during the 12th General Assembly. Being held in conjunction with the 60th-anniversary festivities will make it a special occasion. Hence, the Assembly will serve as a platform for churches across the continent to commemorate their progress and accomplishments over the last 60 years. The churches will evaluate their efforts and chart the way forward.



The Official logo of the AACC's 12th General Assembly

AACC And Council for World Mission Strengthen Ties

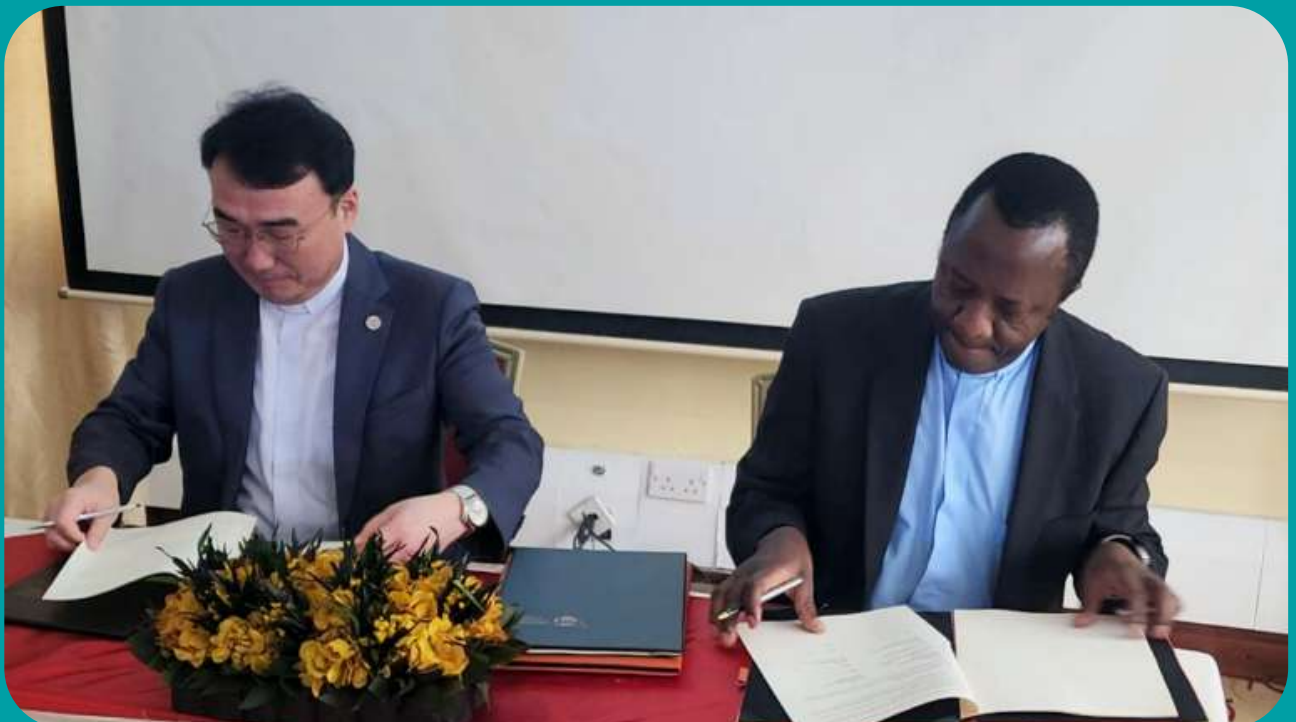
The AACC and the Council for World Mission (CWM) have agreed to deepen ecumenical collaboration by signing a Framework of Cooperation (FoC) for the ecumenical partnership for a period of five years (2023 – 2027). The FoC signing took place at the Boma Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, on Tuesday, February 28th 2023.

This FoC was signed by the AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki and CWM General Secretary Rev. Dr. Jooseop Keum. The FoC will play a big role in strengthening and promoting ecumenism in the African continent.

The two organizations agreed to collaborate on three thematic areas namely;

- a. Economic and Social Justice
- b. Creation Care and Climate Justice (Ecological Stewardship)
- c. Formation in Mission, Ecumenism, Diakonia, and Leadership

The CWM has its headquarters in Singapore and regional offices in the United Kingdom and South Africa. Its Member Churches are drawn from Africa, the Caribbean, East Asia, Europe, Pacific and South Asia. The CWM carries out its activities through the following programmes; Life-flourishing Creation and Economy, Mission Programme and Partnership, Discipleship, Spiritualities and Dialogue, Education and Formation and Empowerment and Peace Building and Community Development.



The CWM General Secretary Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum and AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki signing the Framework of Cooperation



AACC's 12th General Assembly And 60th 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

aacc-ceta.org

Human Resource Management

The AACC Appoints New Staff



Mr. Brian Muyunga

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Brian Muyunga has joined our team as the Programme Executive for Youth from 1st January 2023. Brian is a 26-year-old from Uganda and a member of The Church of Uganda. He holds a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Laboratory Technology from Makerere University and currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Divinity at St Paul's University Kenya. He is a youth member of the WCC's Central Committee and Executive Committee. Brian is passionate about the holistic health and well-being of young people and ecumenism and Pan-Africanism.

Mr. Emmanuel Magar Yayoune

We are delighted to announce that Mr. Emmanuel Magar is joining our team as the Programmes Support at our Lomé Regional Office from 1st December 2022. Emmanuel is a 30-year-old from Togo and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Togo. He holds a bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management from Lomé University and a Certificate in Advanced Studies in Ecumenical Studies from Bossey Institute in Geneva. Emmanuel is passionate about the youth and Pan-Africanism.



Mr. Diriba Habte

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Diriba Habte has joined our team as the Finance Coordinator at the AACC Liaison Office to the Africa Union from 1st January 2023. He has over 13 years of experience in finance, management, supply chain, and administration. He previously worked with Right to Play Ethiopia, World Vision Ethiopia, and Refugees and Returnees Services. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Wollega University and Haramaya University respectively.



Mr. Nebyou Esayas

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Nebyou Esayas has joined our team as the property clerk and driver at the AACC Liaison Office to the Africa Union from 1st January 2023. He has over 10 years of experience in logistics, automotive technology, and marketing.



AACC Commemorates International Women's Day

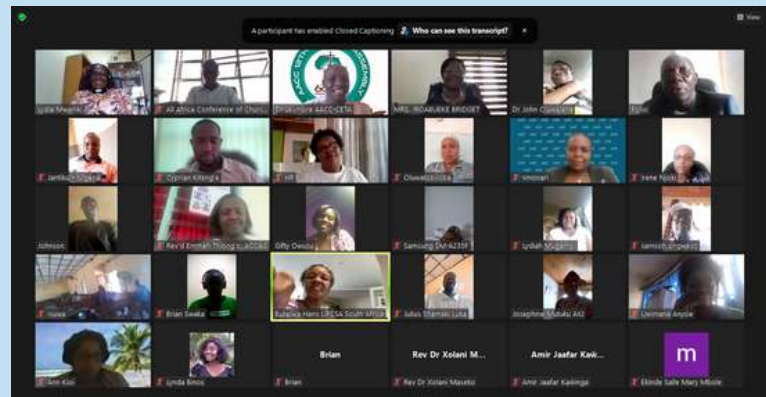


Rev. Dr. Lydia Mwaniki

On 8th March 2023, the AACC joined the rest of the world in commemorating International Women's Day through a virtual webinar. The theme was; "The love of Christ compels us to promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) in the Digital World". This theme was derived from the global theme: "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality" and AACC's 12th General Assembly theme, "The Love of Christ Compels us."

Discussions centered around the impact of innovation and technology on gender equality, women's rights and economic empowerment, and the role of religion in influencing the digital world to achieve gender equality. The webinar also looked into ways in which women entrepreneurs can benefit from digitalization as well as from the available sources of funding in the continent.

The three speakers addressed these themes quite efficiently. The Key Note Speaker, Madam Jebbeh Forster-United Nations Women Regional Policy Advisor – Governance and Women, Peace and Security, Eastern and Southern Africa Region (ESARO), introduced the global theme by creating awareness of the impact of digitalization, innovation, and technology on gender equality, women's rights and economic empowerment in Africa. Violet Monari, who is the Head of Small and Medium Enterprises and women desk "Elevate" in Ecobank spoke about available opportunities for accessing finances for Women entrepreneurs in Africa. Finally, Rev. Dr. Xolani Maseko-Secretary-United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCA) highlighted the role of Religion in advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) in the digital world. The webinar was also honored by the presence of the International Programme Director, Christian Aid, Madam Ojobo Ode Atuluku, who brought a goodwill message.



Screenshot of some of the participants of the Commemoration of International Women's Day Webinar held on 8th March 2023

The outcome of the webinar was increased awareness of the positive and negative impact of digitalization, innovation, and technology on GEWE. Participants were better informed about available sources of funding for women entrepreneurs in the continent, and the role of religion in advancing GEWE in the digital world and promoting online nonviolent gender equitable norms was better understood.

In conclusion, it was noted that the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities has not been adequately addressed. Participants were also eager for more information on available sources of funding for women entrepreneurs. The AACC, therefore, needs to continue with these discussions, especially during the available spaces for women's Pre-assembly engagements in 2023 and beyond.

Statement by The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) On the Alleged Sexual Harassment of Female Workers in Tea Farms in Kenya

Nairobi, 28th February 2023

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) is concerned and saddened by the revelations of sexual harassment of women working in tea farms in Kenya, exposed in the BBC One Panorama Investigative Report titled “Sex for Work: The True Cost of Our Tea”. As an ecumenical organization with over 140 Million Christians in 43 African countries, AACC joins the rest of the world in condemning this heinous act of forcing women to offer their bodies for sex in exchange for jobs, in the strongest terms possible.

AACC stands in solidarity with the over 70 women working at the implicated tea farms who are reportedly survivors of rape. Women are full human beings, created in the image and glory of God, and NOT sex vessels. Their dignity is to be respected and not abused.

As we respond with prayer, the All Africa Conference of Churches calls for:

- 1) Urgent and thorough investigation of the sexual scandal and for all the perpetrators to be brought to justice;
- 2) Justice for the over 70 women survivors of sexual violence and their families and demand that the management of the institutions implicated in the documentary to take responsibility, apologise, and compensate for the damage done to the victims and their families; and
- 3) Implementation of all legal frameworks to combat workplace sexual violence and harassment at the workplace as well as these institution’s “Zero-tolerance” policy on sexual abuse.

We reiterate our commitment to eliminate Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), especially violence against women and girls (VAWG) and to promote respect for the dignity and God’s image in all human beings.

“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body” (1 Corinthians 6:18).”

**Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki
GENERAL SECRETARY**

Youth and African Patriotism

Loving or Preying?



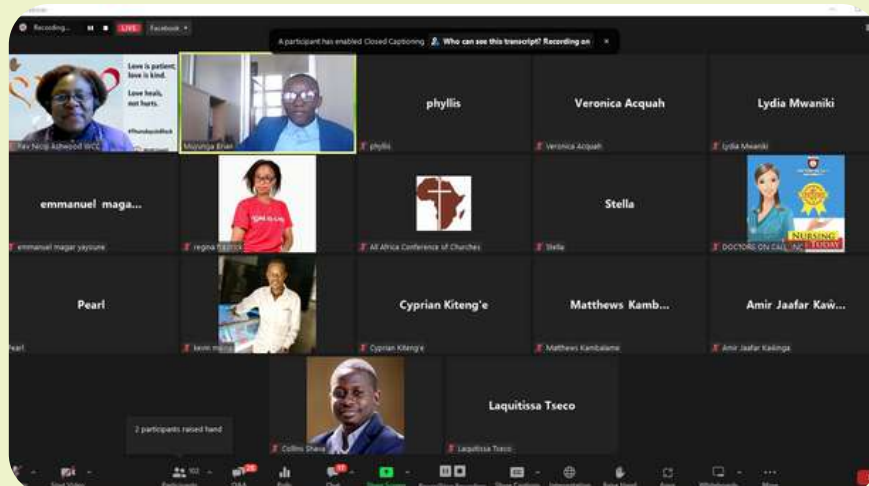
Mr. Brian Muyunga

On 14 February 2023, over 207 young people engaged in an Intergenerational dialogue with AACC's male champions for gender Justice and other senior church leaders on Sexual and reproductive health and rights. Loving or preying? was the theme that guided the conversations.

Throughout the 180 minutes that the webinar lasted, participants interrogated the ways through which young people's ways of seeking or expressing love increase vulnerability to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, HIV & AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies, and other sexual and Reproductive health challenges.

In her reflections on the Church's approach to the lived realities of young people who are sexually active, Fredrick Regina, a youth leader from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania applauded the AACC for providing a safe space where young people can engage in honest conversations with their Church leaders on a topic that many churches still shy away from. Using the story of Tamer's rape in 2 Samuel 13, Rev. Nicole Ashwood of the World Council for Churches facilitated a dialogue enabling the young people to identify the common misconceptions of love that expose them to sexual exploitation and abuse. The webinar was also an opportunity for Kevin Maina and Sheila Nalamai from St Paul's University to showcase their talents in reciting poems about the joy and plight of young lovers.

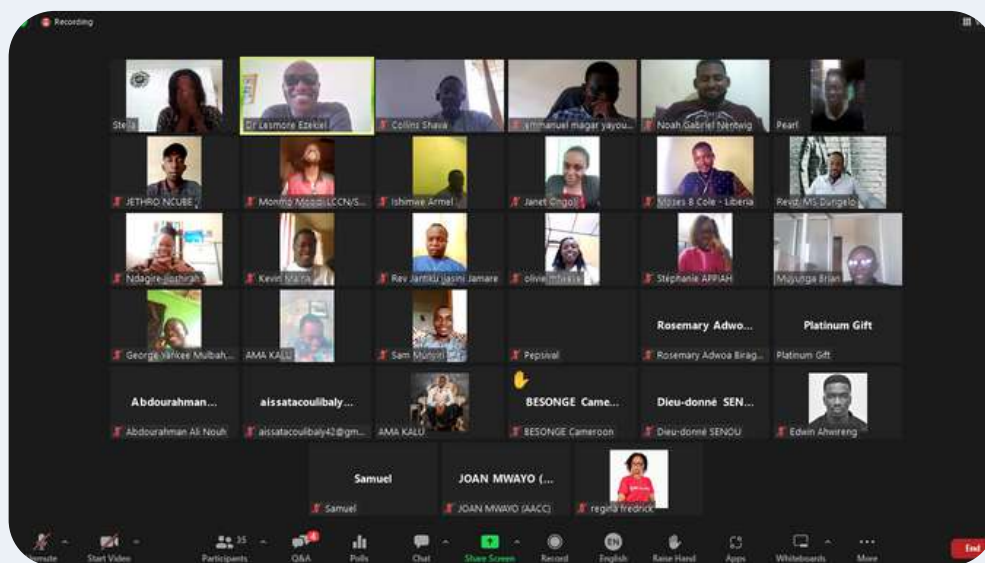
In his closing remarks, Brian Muyunga our Executive Secretary, Youth, assured the participants that this webinar would be followed by other engagements on the topics that they had suggested.



Screenshot of some of the participants of the Commemoration of the Loving or Preying? Webinar held on 14th February 2023

Youth and African Patriotism

AACC's Youths Convene to Share Their Reflections and Experiences



Screenshot of some of the participants of the All Africa Youth Congress Follow-Up Webinar Webinar held on 17th February 2023

On 17th February 2023, the AACC organized an All Africa Youth Congress Follow-up Webinar. This was four months after the All Africa Youth Congress held in Ghana between 31 November and 5 October 2022.

The webinar brought together 105 participants drawn from the AACC member churches and some participants of the All Africa Youth Congress held in November 2023 to share their reflections and experiences from the historical Pan-Africanism youth congress ran on the theme, “Africa: My Home, My Future. The meeting was held via zoom and moderated by Moses Cole from Liberia and Stella Francis from Nigeria.

The participants reported about the initiatives they had begun to contribute to the development of their communities, and others used the webinar to reflect on how the congress transformed their perspectives and attitudes towards Pan-Africanism. “Before the congress, I thought Pan-Africanism was an anti-Christ concept but the congress made me learn and appreciate that it is actually one way of witnessing to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ”, said Noah; a youth leader from the Anglican church in Gambia.

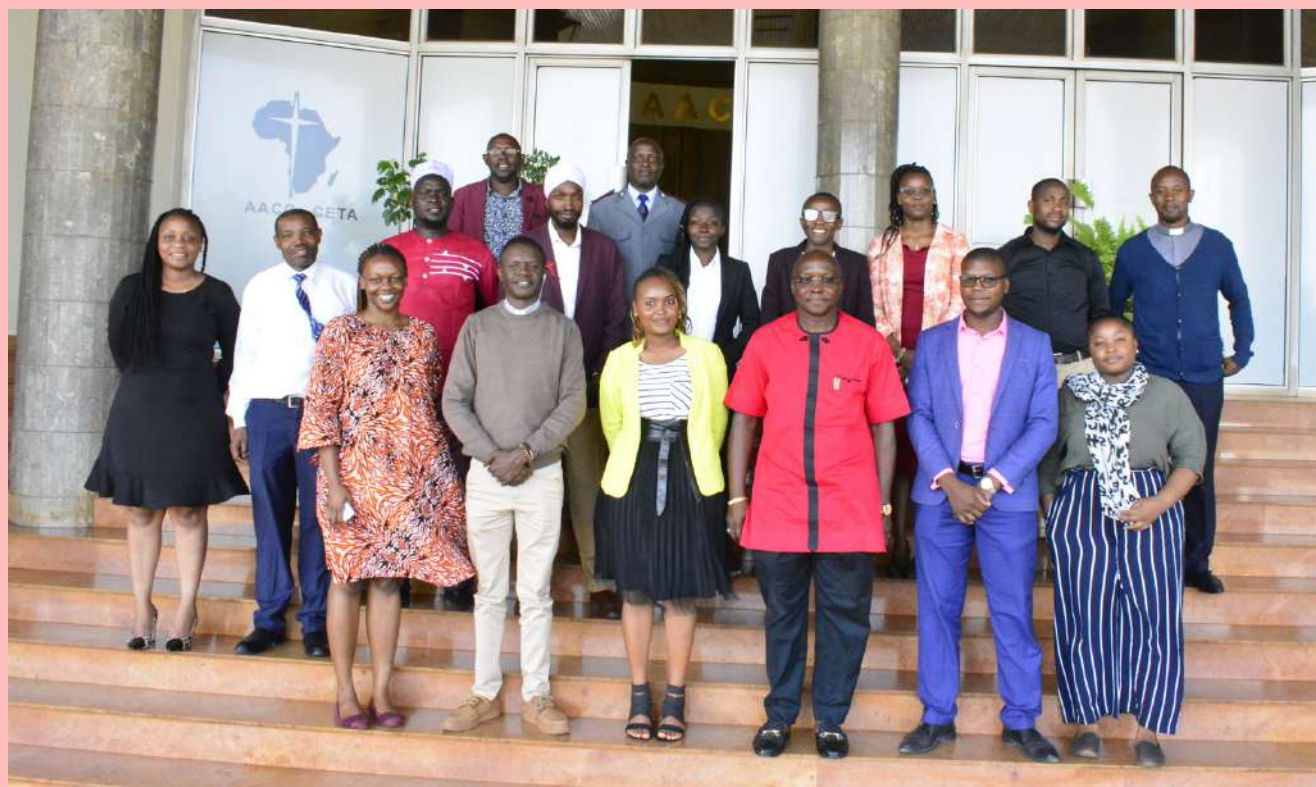
The AACC Executive Secretary, Youth, Brian Muyunga was also officially introduced to the AAYC network and the Participants were sensitized about the AACC youth activities for 2023.

Youth and African Patriotism

Deepening Ecumenical Relations Amongst Youth leaders from AACC Member Churches in Kenya

Youth leaders, drawn from the AACC member churches in Kenya and the youth coordinator at the National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCK) visited the AACC office in Nairobi, Kenya on 9th March 2023. During their visit, the youth leaders engaged in a very informative dialogue with the AACC staff on the history and missional work of the organization, the place, and the role of young people in the ecumenical movement and deepening ecumenical relations among young people in Kenya.

The youth leaders brainstormed on how they would use their experiences and outcomes of the 2022 All Africa Youth Congress to foster Pan-Africanism, mobilize young people in their respective churches to be fully involved in AACC's programs, and also meaningfully participate in AACC's upcoming General Assembly and 60th Anniversary celebrations in Abuja, Nigeria.



Group of Photo of Youth leaders from the AACC Member Churches in Kenya and Some AACC Members of Staff During the Consultation on 9th March 2023

Peace

The AACC Attends the Global Ecumenical Network of South Sudan



Rev. Charles Berahino

*Group Photo of the Attendees of the Global Ecumenical Network of South Sudan*

The AACC has been involved in the peace process for Sudan and later for South Sudan. Since 2019, the AACC has been the convener of the Ecumenical Network of South Sudan (ENSS). The AACC has also facilitated a number of processes to accompany its member churches, the council as well as the people and government of South Sudan in the search for sustainable peace. In order to deepen partnership for peace in South Sudan, all partners accompanying churches and people of South Sudan meet in person in Juba, South Sudan from 30th January 2023 – 2nd February 2023 to deliberate on different concerns and make recommendations for actions.

The main objective of the AACC participation was to support and accompany the Church and contribute to its initiatives for a peaceful South Sudan. The ENSS meeting brought together the two Hubs (Africa, Europe, and North America Hubs) to discuss the best ways to advocate for peace in South Sudan. It also sought to encourage updates from participants on plans of action and the execution of the renewed agreement.

As an outcome, the AACC and the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) were mandated to accompany Church leaders and the secretariat of SSCC to deepen the synergy and ownership of the Council. The ENSS annual Global meeting created space to not only reflect on advocacy strategies but also allowed the Hubs to define opportunities for engagement and collaboration in 2023. During the meeting, Partners and the South Sudan Church constituency renewed their commitment to the mission of peace and stability in South Sudan.

Peace

Unlocking the Power of Peace: Before, During, and After Elections

The AACC accompanied its Member churches in Nigeria during the Presidential Elections that were held on 25 February 2023. The AACC's team of International observers was composed of Eminent Persons who were deployed to join and accompany the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) to observe the 2023 elections.

CAN deployed 1200 local observers around the nation. CAN President, His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel Okoh, received the AACC team on the first day, thanked them for coming along and stressed the need of working together with the local observers to achieve their mission. The AACC team commended CAN for its outstanding efforts and stated that they had come as an ecumenical group in solidarity and in prayer for peace with the Church, the people, and the government of Nigeria before, during, and after the elections. Following their meeting with the CAN president, the crew joined forty other Abuja-based observers in an informational session.

Accompanied by the leadership of CAN, the AACC team paid a courtesy call to Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Geoffrey Onyeama, who appreciated the role of the AACC and the Churches in Nigeria. The Minister also assured the team that Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had put in place all the needed structures and mechanisms for a peaceful election and requested continued support and prayers.

The delegation also visited the INEC headquarters in Abuja, where they were given a briefing on the commission's readiness and had an opportunity to ask about any concerns they had about the procedure. The team of observers visited polling stations in Abuja on Saturday, 25th February 2023, to monitor the voting process where they noted that in numerous locations, the voting did not begin on schedule. Thereafter, the team witnessed the counting of votes at polling stations where voting was done on time. They attested to the orderly counting of the ballots. Most of the locations the AACC team visited in Abuja had successful polling.



AACC Observers During the Nigerian General Elections

Climate Change

AFAN-CJ Embarks on Country-Level Initiatives



Dr. Tinashe Gumbo



Photo Collage of AFAN-CJ Activities in various countries

The AACC continued to provide technical support to local initiatives spearheaded by the Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ) members in their respective countries. The AFAN-CJ members have been involved in the implementation of local processes in response to the effects of climate change. AFAN-CJ's country-level engagement and interventions help amplify the network's work at continental and global spaces such as the Africa Climate Week and the COP processes.

Between January and March 2023, AFAN-CJ members in Burundi, Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Ghana implemented various activities that were technically supported by the AACC. These included the engagement of key stakeholders, awareness-raising activities as well as mitigation efforts (tree planting). In Zambia, the AFAN-CJ paid a courtesy visit to the office of the Chairperson for Africa Group of Negotiators, Mr. Ephraim Mwepya Shitima. Meetings with other stakeholders were held in the rest of the countries while the involvement of the youth and school children in climate change interventions was prioritized in all countries. Below are some pictorial presentations from different countries.

Climate Change

Climate Yes Campaign Webinar to Review and Assess its Progress



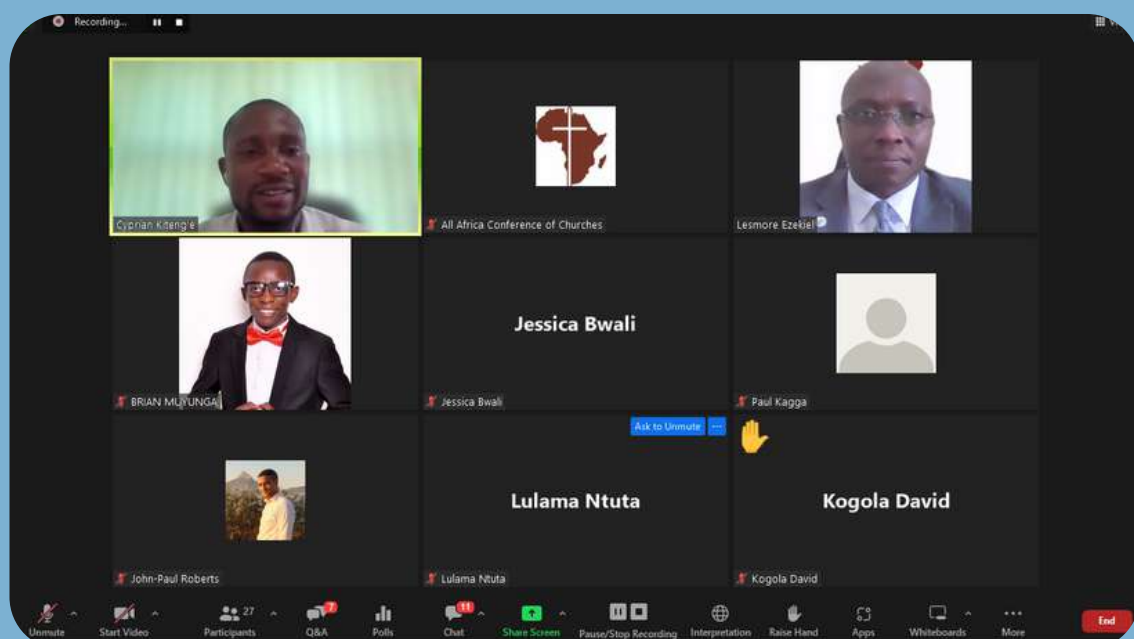
Mr. Cyprian Kiteng'e

On March 2nd 2023, Climate YES held a review and stock taking webinar that lasted 2hrs and 10 mins. The webinar focused on key processes, activities, and contributions of the Climate YES 2022 Campaign to the 27th Conference of the Parties that happened in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt. The webinar critically analyzed the engagement of young people in the United Nations system and identified key point areas to leverage. These included; youth environment assemblies, conference of youth that happens ahead of the conference of parties, and youth summits as well as active participation in the climate negotiations.

During the webinar, it was noted that young people should draw inspiration from prominent religious leaders including:

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu reminds us that “The destruction of Earth’s Environment is the human rights challenge of our time”.
- Pope Francis is very vocal on environmental issues and calls upon all people in the world to listen to the “cry of the earth” which he refers to as “our common home” and the cry of the poor, who suffer most.
- The fact that over 85% of humanity associates with some faith. The Christian faith advocates for the care of nature and instills in us values of care for creation while upholding the principles of common good and human dignity

It was further noted that young people have an important role to heal the earth and Climate YES has the potential to achieve this goal. However, it was pointed out that, the climate crisis is not a battle that is easily won or lost but transformational change can be achieved if networked individuals of the Climate YES act through concerted efforts. It was concluded that going forward Youths must treat issues relating to climate change as a matter of life and death that cannot be traded, politicized, or negotiated.



Screenshot of some of the participants of the Climate Yes Campaign Post Cop 27 Review and Stock Take Webinar held on 2nd March 2023

Advocacy for Economic Justice and the New Debt Crisis

AACC Economic Justice Ambassadors Attend 14th Edition of the Alternative Mining Indaba



Dr. Tinashe Gumbo

The AACC participated in the 14th edition of the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) in Cape Town, South Africa from 7th February 2023 – 9th February 2023 through its Economic Justice Champions drawn from Malawi, Namibia, and South Africa. The AMI is a platform that has now turned into an ongoing process that was created by Faith Based Organisations, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that are concerned with the social injustices that are prevalent and perpetual in the African Mining Industry.

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

The 2023 AMI was held under the theme “A Just energy transition for sustainable mining communities in a climate crisis era” and was attended by over 300 people from several countries in Africa. The AACC delegates actively participated in the main plenary sessions that focused on various topics including tax justice; Africa's mineral resources and global governance, just energy transition, and others as well as side events engagement sessions.

Photo of the AACC Representatives at the 14th edition of the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) in Cape Town, South Africa held from 7th to 9th February 2023

The AACC delegation hosted a side event, in partnership with the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCDD); African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD); Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA); Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN); Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) and Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU). The session discussed ways that can be used to amplify ordinary people's participation in the Just Energy Transition. Rev. Baxton Maulidi, an AACC Economic Justice Champion from Malawi, was part of the panel and gave strong theological reflections on mining and accountability.

The Church was challenged to be an active participant in discussions on natural resources governance. The AACC delegates at AMI committed themselves to amplify the voice of the Church by intensifying their programming around the extractive sector as it is linked to issues of climate change, tax justice, and Africa's indebtedness. The AACC Program Executive for Economic and Ecological Justice, Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, said: “as AACC, we continue to provide spaces for our Economic Justice Champions to network, gain more knowledge on global and regional discussions on topical issues as well as to effectively engage their policymakers and other stakeholders in the promotion of economic justice in Africa. We believe in justice at all levels of society”.



Migration and Trafficking in Persons

Joining Forces for African-European Civil Society Engagement on Migration


Mr. Gorden Simango

On the 28th of February and the 01st March 2023, Mr. Gorden Simango, the Director of the AACC Liaison Office to the African Union attended a workshop co-organized by the Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO e.V.) and ENDA ECOPOP, a Senegalese NGO in Dakar, Senegal. The workshop was held under the theme “Joining Forces for African-European Civil Society Engagement on Migration”. Representatives of African civil society organizations (CSOs) in Africa and from the European Diaspora gathered to build strategies and synergies for the upcoming process of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD).

This workshop was a second step from the earlier one which took place in February 2023 in Abuja Nigeria where African and European CSOs launched the journey for CSOs toward the next GFMD.

The workshop sought to provide innovative insights into the common challenges faced by Africa and Europe based on living realities. Ahead of the GMFD Summit, the workshop provided an opportunity to consolidate common positions in pursuit of human rights-based and people-centered migration policies, especially on labor migration, climate change mobility, and diaspora engagement.

For processes leading to the next GFMD, the workshop prioritized three areas; namely Labor Migration, Diaspora, and Climate Change human mobility. On Labor migration the consultation prioritised advocacy with UN Member States to ratify, domesticate and implement the International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions and regulations, in particular, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990), the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) 1949 (No.97) and the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions)

Convention of 1975 (No. 143), the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189); and their accompanying recommendations.

Participants also prioritized the need for labor mobility agreements (such as bilateral labor agreements and global skills partnerships) that include wage protection systems, legal complaints, and mediation mechanisms through diplomatic missions of countries of origin to protect migrant workers' rights and fundamental rights at work. Social partners, trade unions, and CSO must also be consulted.

On the issue of the 6th region of Africa, participants recognized the need to move beyond countries thinking of diasporas as ATMs or cash machines and begin to integrate diaspora in a number of national development programs such as investments, culture, etc. African States must also begin to think of how to leverage the 3rd generation of Diasporas.



Photo of the participants of the Workshop on Joining Forces for African-European Civil Society Engagement on Migration

Migration and Trafficking in Persons

Africa - Europe Ecumenical Forum on Migration



Group Photo of the Participants of the Africa - Europe Ecumenical Forum on Migration in Hamburg, Germany

The AACC and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) organized the Africa-Europe Ecumenical Forum on Migration from 15th March 2023 to 19th March 2023 in Hamburg, Germany. The participants of the workshop were drawn from AACC Member Churches and Members of the CCME from across Europe. The workshop aimed to counter Irregular Migration, Modern Slavery and Trafficking in Persons with FBOs and partners based in Europe focusing on addressing existing gaps in policy implementation and practices.

The Africa-Europe Ecumenical Forum on Migration provided a platform for participants to reflect on the work of the churches in Africa and Europe on migration and human trafficking. The participants also had an opportunity to analyse policies on migration from both the perspective of the African Union and European Union and reflect on the gaps in terms of implementation.

Through the forum the AACC and CCME and its members become more conversant with the work done by each organization on irregular migration and have a concerted ecumenical approach to migration that will heighten their respective work. Participants come up with recommendations on how to deal with the gaps in Migration policies.

Strengthening Democracy and Governance in Africa



Mr. Justice Oman

The AACC held a validation workshop on the implementation of the African Charter for Democracy, Election, and Governance from 6th March 2023 – 9th March 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The convening of the validation workshop, was in line with the AACC programmatic pillar of advocacy at the African Union for which it commissioned research on the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) through its Project titled, “enhancing capacities of the AACC to heighten its advocacy role for human dignity and justice in the continent”.

The workshop discussed the research findings and created an avenue for experts, and other stakeholders in democracy, election management, and governance in Africa to engage and identify ways of enhancing the implementation of the ACDEG as an instrument for the promotion of democracy in Africa. The workshop also provided a platform for the development of a policy brief on democracy, elections, and governance in Africa.

The Research Consultants presented their findings to representatives from the AU organs and Institutions (The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), The African Governance Architecture (AGA) Economic, Social & Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), Representatives from the Member States of Countries with representation on the Peace and Security Council; Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Burundi, Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Embassies in Addis Ababa, The European Union representative in Addis Ababa, USAID, Bread for the World, Representatives from faith-based organizations and experts in democracy, elections, and governance.



Group Photo of the Participants of the Validation Workshop on The Implementation of The African Charter for Democracy, Election, And Governance in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Human Rights Award Committee Inaugurated



Mr. Justice Oman

The AACC Human Rights Award Committee was inaugurated in Nairobi, Kenya by AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki on the 21st March 2023. AACC is instituting a biennial Pan African award to recognize the contributions of Individuals and Organisations across the continent whose focus and life mission is to champion Human Rights, Good Governance, and the Rule of Law.

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, from birth until death. The rights apply regardless of origin, belief, or way of life. They are based on shared values like dignity, fairness, equality, respect, and independence. The issue of Human Rights and the Rule of Law has been placed on the African agenda in recent years as part of the overall democracy drive.

The steps taken by the AACC will encourage African Citizens to commit to the transformation of the Continent in attaining inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development. To achieve this objective, the AACC through its Advocacy Advisory Group has created an Independent Awards Committee. The committee's responsibility is to ensure the implementation of a credible and transparent nomination, screening, and selection process and also identify winners who will receive the award at the AACC's 12th General Assembly and 60th Anniversary Celebrations in Abuja, Nigeria.



Group Photo of Some of the Human Rights Award Committee with the AACC General Secretary Rev Dr. Fidon Mwombeki During the Launch of the Committee on 21st March 2023



AACC-CETA



2023 AACC
HUMAN RIGHTS
AWARD
NOMINATION
don't miss it

Deadline April 30, 2023 | 6:00 PM EAT

www.aacc-ceta.org



Upcoming Activities



April

- 2nd April 2023 - 5th April 2023: Youth Consultation on the AACC strategic plan
- 23rd April 2023: Training on the use of AACC's Advocacy Tool kit for Justice for Widows shared
- 27th April 2023 - 30th April 2023: Accompany church leaders in their plan of action for peace in Cameroun
- 27th April 2023: Roundtable dialogue of Male Champions for Gender Justice
- April 2023: Intergenerational Conversations on SRHR

May

- 16th May 2023 - 19th May 2023: Organize an EPEPPA peace mission to Zimbabwe
- 25th May 2023: Facilitate a virtual theological roundtable among women theologians on Sustainable Population
- 8th May 2023 - 12th May 2023: Regional Youth leaders Consultation on AU Agenda 2063

June

- 5th June 2023: Commemoration of World Environment Day
- 5th June 2023 - 9th June 2023: Orientation and briefing session of the AACC Eminent persons and deployment to Ethiopia
- 14th June 2023 - 16th June 2023: Capacity strengthening workshops in leadership, development, and Diakonia
- 16th June 2023: International day of the African Child
- 21st June 2023 - 24th June 2023: Accompany church leaders in their plan of action for peace in Eswatini
- 23rd June 2023: Webinar with Church leaders on the use of the Advocacy Tool Kit for Justice for widows
- 5th June 2023 - 9th June 2023: Intergenerational Conversations on SRHR and Gender Justice



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



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