



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

AACC-CETA

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Wednesday, 10th February 2021

His Excellency President Félix - Antoine Tshisekedi TSHILOMBO
Chairperson of the African Union,
President of the Democratic Republic of Congo
c/o Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo
Bole Sub City,
K-03, H No. 407,
P. O. Box 5639
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Your Excellency,

Re: Congratulatory message on your election to the position of the African Union (AU) Chairperson

On behalf of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), I wish to present our compliments to your highly esteemed office, and indeed congratulate you on your election to be the African Union (AUC) Chairperson at the recently held 34th Ordinary Session of Assembly of the Heads of States and Governments of 6 & 7 February, 2021.

Your Excellency, we pray for your leadership as you take up this position to lead Africa towards “the Africa We Want”

The AACC welcomes the African Union theme of the year 2021 “Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want”. Your Excellency, the theme calls for Africa to embrace a culture of non-violence, and engrain the African Union values as espoused in its wide-ranging norms and binding instruments. Africa needs to maximize on the potential of the arts to unite it and to catalyze peace, tolerance and harmony across the continent. In this, the AACC calls for a more deliberate engagement with young people, women and people with disabilities in implementation of this year’s theme.

Your Excellency, the AACC is concerned by the continued missing of targets set out in the Agenda 2063. Last year Africa missed its target of “Silencing the Guns by 2020.” Instead, tragically, in 2020 new conflicts emerged, *inter alia* in the Sahel region and Ethiopia, the host country of the African Union Commission, - in the year of silencing the guns. Your Excellency, maintaining and preserving peace on the African continent remains a topmost priority, and we call your leadership to recommit African governments to the full implementation of the Agenda 2063.

PRESIDENT: Rt. Rev. Arnold C. Temple • GENERAL SECRETARY: Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki

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The AACC appreciates the operationalization of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AFCTA) in 2020 by the African Union. In light of this, we call on your leadership to strongly encourage the remaining African governments to ratify the “protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment”, and to its full implementation.

Your Excellency, COVID - 19 caught African countries unprepared, and exposed our deficiency in missing the target of the Abuja Declaration of 27 April, 2001, to which African governments committed to allocate at least 15% of their annual budgets to the improvement of the health sector¹. There is no doubt that achieving this commitment will help to boost Africa’s health sector.

Your Excellency, endemic corruption in, Africa and the growing public debt, is a concern for the churches. AACC condemns corruption and lack of public accountability in the strongest sense. We continue to raise our voice and alert governments as our moral obligation to stop corruption, and to curb the growing public debt in Africa. The growing debt continues to draw African governments into strangleholds of foreign lenders, threatening the future independence of our countries. In this time of COVID-19, we call for debt cancellation in order to avail and free resources to strengthen the African COVID-19 response.

Your Excellency, as you embark on your term of office as Chairperson of the African Union, the AACC remains available to engage with your office. Faith communities are an indispensable facet to Africa’s development. We work in the frontlines of seeking justice, fighting poverty and providing social services; and the spiritual development of humanity.

Your Excellency, it is my trust this letter will receive the highest consideration given by your office.

Yours Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Fidon MWOMBEKI

GENERAL SECRETARY

cc: AACC Liaison office to the African Union - in Addis Ababa, Nefasilk Lafto Sub-City, Woreda 03, Kebele 13, House 330, Email: gordensimango@aacc-ceta.org

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