



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

AACC-CETA

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## PRESS RELEASE

### African Faith Communities To Accord Top Priority To Sustainable Families

African faith leaders meeting in Kenya's capital in Nairobi have resolved to lead the battle against unsustainable population growth in Africa in their mission to ensure transformational development in the continent.

The top faith leaders, who met at a high level consultation on Population Dynamics and Complexities in Africa that was organized by the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), discussed how rapid growth of population is impacting on the welfare of Africans, and recommended ways in which faith leaders can advocate for a culture of sustainable families. The theme for the consultation, held on June 29-30, 2021, was ***"Affirming the faith by taking care of the household (1Timothy 5:8).***

In his remarks, the General Secretary of the AACC, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, said that it was important that faith communities highlighted the issue of sustainable population growth and its impact on development, since there was a nexus between the two.

"It is irresponsible for any family, society or country to bring to the world children without thinking of how they'll be raised responsibly and in dignity," the General Secretary said, adding that children were living in deplorable conditions in the continent, as Governments struggled every year to establish more facilities and create jobs to keep up with the growing numbers.

"Africa can no longer boast of a huge population of youth who are poor and desperately trying to leave the continent and go elsewhere to seek a future," he noted.

AACC Director of Programmes, Rev. Dr. Ezekiel Lesmore, called on faith leaders and gatekeepers within the African custodial system to evolve ways to find a balance between the tensions of population growth as a challenge as well as a dividend.

He dismissed the notion that AACC's agenda on population was being influenced by external forces.

"AACC is concerned about unsustainable population from our experiences in Africa," he said.

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

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AACC President, Bishop Arnold Temple, emphasized on responsibility as the way to achieve sustainable families. He said that the Bible exhortation for humans to populate the world was tempered by the Biblical call to till the earth and keep it. He stated that this means that humans had to be responsible in whatever they did.

During the consultation, a Factsheet on population entitled “Faith and Sustainable Families for Sustainable Development” was validated as a tool for advocacy engagement at all levels. The Factsheet will be released publicly soon.

**Rev. Dr. Ezekiel Lesmore Gibson**

**DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES**

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## **About AACC**

Founded in 1963, the All Africa Conference of Churches is an ecumenical fellowship representing more than 140 million Christians in 42 African countries working to make a difference in the lives of the people of Africa through ministries of advocacy and presence on the continental, regional and local levels

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