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AACC STATEMENT ON THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA

We, the members of the General Committee of the All Africa Conference of Churches met in Nairobi, Kenya from 3– 4th May 2023 and remembered all who were hit hard by the storms leading to the most devastating tropical cyclone ever recorded in the region, Cyclone Freddy. The cyclone that occurred in February and March 2023 affected countries around the southern Indian Ocean, particularly Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Zambia. We also took note of the recent floods which affected Rwanda, Nigeria, and Burundi and led to the loss of lives, destruction of property, and internal displacement. This sad development is a clear manifestation of the reality and impact of climate change.

In the face of this crisis and chaos, as people of God and as one body of Christ, inspired by our vision of life, peace, justice, and dignity of God's people:

- 1. We sympathize and stand in solidarity with all who have been and are still affected by the aftermaths and impact of the cyclone and floods. We continue to pray for them.
- 2. We acknowledge the efforts of the local churches and their regional and international partners who offered support to the affected communities and families.
- 3. We also commend the assistance provided by governments and other humanitarian organizations. We appeal for continuous humanitarian support to the affected communities and families.
- 4. We call on all duty bearers at all levels of society to play their part in addressing the impact of climate change.
- 5. We appeal to all Africans to take responsibility with regard to the fight against climate change.
- 6. As faith leaders in Africa, we remain committed to climate justice through our networks such as the Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice.
- 7. We call on developed nations to keep to their commitment on implementation of the "Paris Agreement" and for the operationalization of the "Loss and Damage Fund" agreed at COP27.

"The Welfare of the Earth is our Welfare" (Jeremiah 29:7)

Issued this day of 4th May 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

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