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AACC statement on the Commemoration of World Refugee Day

<u>June 20, 2023</u>

Today June 20, 2023, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) joins the world in commemorating World Refugee Day under the global theme of "Home Away From Home". AACC recognizes and honors the strength and resilience of millions of refugees forced to flee from violence, persecution, and war.

Fifty-four (54) years ago, the African Union adopted the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and showed its strong commitment to the protection of refugees and asylum seekers across Africa. Despite progress made over the years, refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) continue to be confronted by many challenges; among these being - access to health services, education, food, water, protection concerns and many others.

On this day, AACC appreciates efforts achieved to support refugees and their protection, and further calls for more efforts in response to their basic humanitarian and protection needs. AACC calls for the international community, states, and local communities to address the root causes of the refugee problem, especially bringing to an end armed conflicts, and making the "silencing the guns by 2020" aspiration of the African Union a reality.

On this day AACC stands in solidarity with states and communities that are hosting refugees; providing them with opportunities to heal, learn, work, and thrive. AACC also appreciates efforts for durable solutions (voluntary return in safety and dignity, local integration & resettlement to another country or location) and calls for more avenues for such.

Rev Dr. Fidon Mwombeki General Secretary

"The love of Compels us to protect the human dignity and rights of all refugees and internally displaced persons"

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