



AACC Faith Leaders' Statement of Commitment on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Agenda

A Declaration by the All Africa Conference of Churches Adopted at the Faith Leadership AMR Webinar | 5th May 2026

Preamble

We, the Faith Leaders of the All-Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), representing over 200 million Christians across 43 African countries, gather today conscious of our sacred calling to serve God by serving humanity, to heal the sick, protect the vulnerable, and steward the gift of creation entrusted to us.

We gather in recognition of a growing and urgent threat: **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**, a crisis claiming more than 1.27 million lives each year, with Africa bearing a disproportionate share of this burden. We acknowledge that this crisis is not only a medical emergency but a moral one shaped by behaviours, beliefs, and choices that fall squarely within the sphere of pastoral influence and community leadership.

Guided by the words of our Lord in Luke 10:9, *"Heal the sick, and say to them, the Kingdom of God has come near you"* we affirm that caring for the health of our communities is an expression of faith, not separate from it.

Our Affirmations

Having reviewed and received the **AMR Sermon Guide**; a theologically grounded, evidence-based resource jointly developed by ReACT Africa, the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN), and the Africa Christian Health Association Platform (ACHAP), we make the following affirmations:

We believe that the responsible use of antibiotics is an act of stewardship of creation, of community, and of the gift of healing medicines entrusted to this generation and those to come.

We acknowledge that faith communities are uniquely positioned to translate complex public health messages into compelling, values-rooted calls to action from the pulpit, the hospital chapel, the community health centre, and the village prayer group.

We recognize that practices such as self-medication, incomplete treatment courses, and the inappropriate use of antibiotics are not merely health concerns, they are community responsibilities that we as faith leaders are called to address with courage, compassion, and clarity.

Our Commitments

With gratitude for the tools now placed in our hands, and with accountability to the communities we serve, we commit to the following:

1. **Adopt & Champion the AMR Sermon Guide** – Integrate it within our respective denominations, member churches, and affiliated faith-based health networks, embedding it in pastoral and health programming.
2. **Preach & Teach on AMR** – Deliver at least one AMR-themed sermon, health-education session, or community dialogue within the next twelve months, using the Sermon Guide as our foundation.
3. **Raise AMR Champions** – Identify and equip faith leaders who will cascade training, awareness, and behaviour-change messaging across their regions and congregations.
4. **Model Responsible Behaviour** – Encourage our congregations to complete prescribed treatment courses, avoid self-medication, and seek qualified health advice, while embodying these practices ourselves.
5. **Collaborate Across Sectors** – Work alongside health desks, Christian health associations, governments health ministries, World Health Organisation (WHO), multilateral and bilateral organisations and public-health partners to ensure that this message reaches the most vulnerable in our communities.
6. **Advocate for Stewardship-Focused Policies** – As churches, we commit to mobilizing our congregations, networks, and leadership structures to advocate at local, national, and regional levels for policies that strengthen antimicrobial-stewardship, ensure equitable access to quality medicines, provide water, health and sanitation services, and education. We will partner with governments, health ministries, and civil-society coalitions to make responsible antibiotic use a recognized public-policy priority.

Closing Declaration

Together, we do hereby endorse this statement as a living covenant not merely words spoken today, but a commitment to action that we will carry back to our pulpits, our parishes, our hospitals, and our communities.

We do so because we serve a God who heals, who commands us to care for the sick, and who calls us to be faithful stewards of every gift including the gift of life-saving medicines.

Serving Communities. Safeguarding Medicines. Preserving Life.