AACC-CETA

The African Pulse

July - September 2026
Issue 19



Churches in Africa together for life, peace, justice and dignity

The African Pulse

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The African Pulse is published periodically by the All Africa Conference of Churches as an information, educational and advocacy channel for the ecumenical movement in Africa.

AACC is a continental ecumenical body that accounts for over 200 million Christians accross the Continent and a member of the world wide ecumenical network. It is the largest association of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and African Indigenous Churches. AACC has 217 members comprising Churches, National Councils of Churches (NCCs), Theological and Lay Training Institutions, and other Christian organizations in 43 African countries.

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Message from the **General Secretary**

Dear Reader,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is with great joy and gratitude to God that I welcome you to this issue of The African Pulse, highlighting the work and witness of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) during the third quarter of 2026. During this quarter, we continued accompanying our member churches and partners in advancing peacebuilding, democratic governance, gender justice, youth empowerment and sustainable development. I am particularly encouraged by the growing participation of young people and women in these efforts, demonstrating the vitality of the ecumenical movement and its contribution to Africa's transformation.

In this quarter, we were thrilled by the adoption of the historic *"Correct the Map"* resolution by the United Nations General Assembly on 4th September 2026. We congratulate the Republic of Togo for championing this initiative and commend the African Union and African countries for their solidarity. For us at AACC, this resonates strongly with our **Africa: My Home. My Future. campaign.**

I thank our member churches, partners, staff and all those who continue to support our ministry. May God strengthen us as we work together for an Africa where justice, peace and human dignity prevail.

I invite you to read this issue and celebrate with us what God continues to accomplish through our collective witness.

Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki,
General Secretary
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)



Governance, Membership Development & Networking

01

Ms. Moureen Amunga



General Secretary Strengthens **Ecumenical Relations and Partnerships**

Ms. Moureen Amunga

The AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, engaged churches and international partners during the reporting period to strengthen ecumenical cooperation, theological formation and the Church's response to social and humanitarian challenges as highlighted below.

1. Reflecting on Church and Democracy in Germany

Between 30th June and 10th July 2026, the General Secretary participated in the Mission Eine Welt Summer School in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, Germany, under the theme *"Church and Democracy in a Polarized World."*

The gathering brought together church leaders and ecumenical partners from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe to reflect on the role of churches in promoting democratic values, social cohesion and ethical leadership. It provided an opportunity to share African perspectives on governance and the Church's public witness in building peaceful and inclusive societies.

2. Visiting the Churches in Mozambique

From 29th to 31st July 2026, the General Secretary visited Mozambique during a national consultation on combating irregular migration among children and youth to counter human trafficking, organised by the AACC Regional Office in Lomé. Alongside the consultation, he met church leaders and ecumenical partners to discuss their ministries and explore opportunities for closer cooperation.

On 29th July 2026, he paid a courtesy visit to the headquarters of the United Methodist Church in Mozambique, where he was received by Bishop João Filimone Sambo. The Bishop welcomed the consultation, noting that human trafficking affects vulnerable communities and requires coordinated action by churches, governments, civil society and communities.

Their discussions also addressed the Church's life and ministry, the impact of insecurity in Cabo Delgado Province, leadership development, theological education and the role of churches in promoting peace.

The General Secretary also met leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique. They shared the Church's achievements and challenges, including insecurity and displacement, financial sustainability, theological education and pastoral ministry. Rev. Dr. Mwombeki encouraged the Church to consider joining the AACC fellowship to strengthen its participation in continental ecumenical cooperation, leadership formation and advocacy.

In a further engagement with the Christian Council of Mozambique, discussions focused on peacebuilding, humanitarian response, migration and the displacement of communities

affected by conflict. Both institutions affirmed the importance of cooperation among churches in responding to humanitarian needs and upholding human dignity.

On 30th July 2026, the General Secretary joined activities marking the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons under the theme *"Trapped Behind the Scam."* Addressing a press conference, he warned against deceptive promises of employment, education and better opportunities abroad that traffickers use to exploit vulnerable people.
He urged young Africans to embrace the message "Africa: My Home. My Future." and contribute to the continent's development. He also encouraged them to verify opportunities carefully and remain vigilant when offers appear too good to be true.



Bishop João Filimone Sambo and Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki (Credit: Dr. Fidon Mwombeki)

3. A visit by the Africa Secretary of ELCA

On 18th September 2026, the AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki hosted Rev. Dr. Themba Mkhabela, Africa Desk Director of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), at the AACC General Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya.

They reviewed areas of cooperation and explored opportunities to strengthen support for African churches. Discussions focused on leadership development, theological education, institutional strengthening and shared ecumenical priorities.



Rev. Dr. Themba Mkhabela receiving a gift from Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki (Credit: Brian Muyunga)

4. Exploring Further Collaboration with the Amity Foundation

On 23rd September 2026, the General Secretary met leaders of the Amity Foundation in Nairobi to review the partnership between the two organisations.

They explored opportunities for further collaboration in humanitarian action, health, education, community development and sustainable livelihoods. The meeting reaffirmed their commitment to supporting vulnerable communities and strengthening development initiatives led by churches.

AACC Welcomes UN Resolution to **Correct Africa's Map and Urges Action Beyond Cartographic Justice**

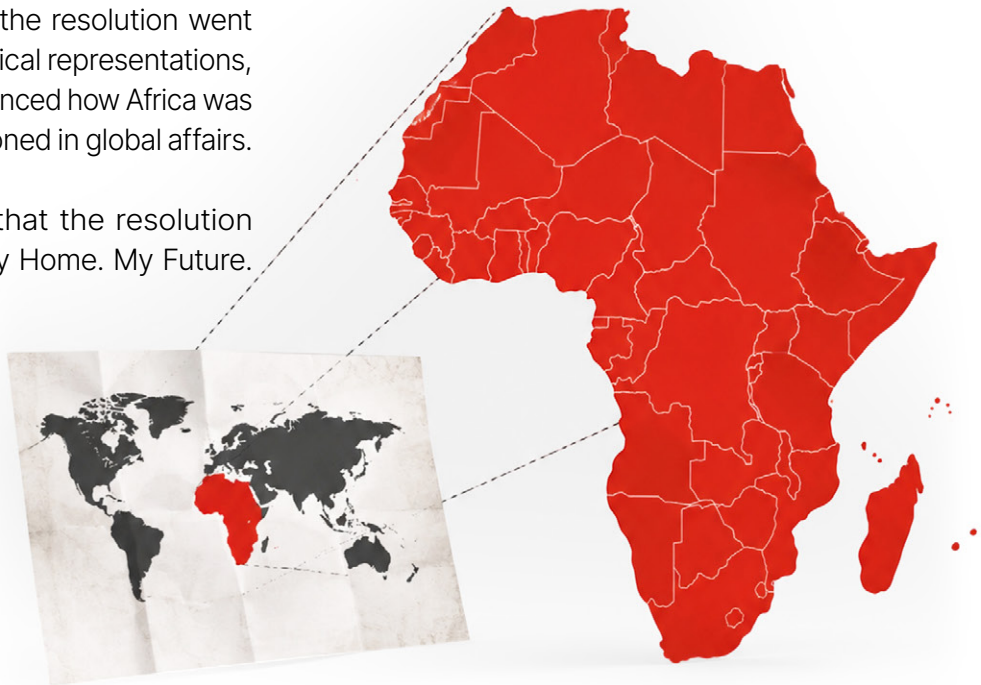
Brian Muyunga

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) welcomed the adoption of the *"Correct the Map"* resolution by the United Nations General Assembly on 4th September 2026, describing it as an important milestone in addressing longstanding distortions in the geographical representation of Africa and challenging perceptions that have diminished the continent's place in the world. The resolution, championed by the Republic of Togo with the support of the African Union and the African Group at the United Nations, received 164 votes in favour. It encouraged the adoption of more geographically accurate map projections to address distortions associated with the widely used Mercator projection, which exaggerates the relative size of regions farther from the Equator.

In a statement issued following the resolution's adoption, the AACC commended Togo's leadership and the solidarity demonstrated by African countries in advancing the initiative. The organisation observed that the resolution went beyond correcting geographical representations, as maps had historically influenced how Africa was perceived, valued and positioned in global affairs.

The AACC further noted that the resolution resonated with its Africa: My Home. My Future. campaign, which encouraged young Africans to challenge negative narratives about their continent, embrace their African identity and take responsibility for shaping its future.

The organisation called upon churches, ecumenical partners and young Africans to support efforts towards more accurate representations of the continent. It also emphasised that correcting geographical distortions should accompany broader efforts to address inequalities and injustices that continued to undermine Africa's development and the dignity of its people. For the AACC, the resolution represented an opportunity to strengthen African identity, restore confidence in the continent's potential and inspire greater Pan-African solidarity, particularly among young people whose leadership would be instrumental in shaping Africa's future.



Theology and Interfaith Relations

02

Fr. Dr. John Njoroge



AACC and St. Paul's University Renew **Partnership for Ecumenical Leadership Formation**

Fr. Dr. John Njoroge

On 10th August 2026, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and St. Paul's University renewed their partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement at the University's main campus in Limuru, Kenya. AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, and the University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Esther Mombo, signed the agreement. The partnership supports the Master of Theology in Ecumenical Leadership (MTEL) Programme, conceptualised by the AACC to equip a younger generation of leaders with theological knowledge and practical skills for ministry and ecumenical service. The two institutions have accompanied and graduated two cohorts.

Under the renewed arrangement, the programme relocated from the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Zambia to St. Paul's University's main campus in Limuru. Preparations were finalised for the third cohort, whose studies were scheduled to begin on 1st September 2026. Speaking during the signing ceremony, Rev. Dr. Mwombeki emphasised the importance of intentionally preparing younger theologians to participate meaningfully in ecumenical conversations and serve effectively in churches and society.

Prof. Mombo affirmed the University's commitment to academic quality and partnerships that strengthen its contribution to society. Both institutions also committed to expanding opportunities for younger theologians and increasing women's participation in the programme.



St. Paul's University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Esther Mombo and AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki shaking hands after signing the MoU. (Credit: Fr. Dr. John Njoroge)

AACC Equips Kenyan Church Leaders **to Respond to Misleading Theologies**

Fr. Dr. John Njoroge

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), in collaboration with DanMission, convened over 35 church leaders, theologians and representatives of theological institutions in Kenya on 21st and 22nd September 2026 to strengthen churches' responses to contextually misleading theologies. Building on AACC's theological engagement since 2019, the workshop connected theological education with pastoral realities and contributed to developing an ecumenical guidance tool for assessing teachings that distort the Gospel and undermine human dignity.

AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, warned that harmful religious teachings were exploiting vulnerable communities. He challenged teachings that discourage medical care or promise financial breakthroughs through giving, calling for accountability in exercising spiritual authority. Introducing the workshop, Fr. Dr. John Njoroge, AACC Executive Secretary for Theology and Interfaith Relations, urged participants to move beyond identifying misleading teachings towards developing responsible theology through stronger cooperation between churches and theological institutions.

Rev. Mimii Brown, Principal of Nyakato Bible College in Tanzania, highlighted the exploitation of people seeking answers to spiritual, social and economic challenges, emphasising ethical leadership and critical thinking.

Presenting research on Pentecostal Christianity in Kenya, Dr. Mary Kihuha examined how women's spiritual contributions coexist with exclusion from leadership. She challenged teachings that attribute childlessness, marital difficulties and poverty to curses or insufficient faith, advocating theology that affirms women's dignity and confronts structures that create vulnerability.

Rev. Dr. Kevin Murithi of St. Paul's University stressed that misleading theologies also affect mainstream denominations. He called for theological education that addresses everyday struggles, forms accountable servant leaders and strengthens pastoral care.

The workshop concluded with the development of a guidance tool to help churches and theological institutions identify and respond to harmful teachings. Participants were encouraged to protect vulnerable people, restore dignity and promote life-giving interpretations of Scripture through sustained theological reflection, ecumenical cooperation and responsible leadership within their communities.



Group photo of the participants

Gender and Women

03

Ms. Faustina Nillan



AACC Supports Five African Churches to Advance **Widows' Economic Empowerment and Dignity**

Ms. Faustina Nillan



Widows practical session for soap making in Dodoma, Tanzania during International Widows' Day 2026. (Credit: Faustina Nillan).

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) is strengthening church-led responses to the challenges facing widows across Africa through its Small Grants Initiative, which supports innovative approaches to economic empowerment, social inclusion and the protection of widows' rights.

In August 2026, five churches and one Christian council were selected to receive grants: the Christian Council of Tanzania, Anglican Church of Kenya, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone and Orthodox Church of Benin. The initiative responds to the economic deprivation, discrimination, denial of inheritance rights and harmful cultural practices experienced by widows in many African communities. It recognises churches as important partners in addressing these challenges and creating opportunities for widows to improve their livelihoods and participate meaningfully in society.

Through the grants, participating churches are supported to strengthen existing programmes and develop interventions suited to their local contexts. These may include entrepreneurship training, vocational skills development, income-generating activities, savings groups, psychosocial support and advocacy against discriminatory practices. Beyond financial assistance, the AACC provides successful applicants with orientation and capacity strengthening in project management, financial accountability, monitoring and reporting. The initiative also encourages churches to document and share experiences that could inform similar interventions elsewhere on the continent.

Rooted in biblical teachings on justice and care for widows, including Isaiah 1:17 and James 1:27, the programme seeks to move church responses beyond short-term charity towards sustainable empowerment. Through this initiative, the AACC is encouraging its member churches to become stronger advocates for widows' dignity, economic independence and social inclusion, while building communities where widows can exercise their rights and contribute fully to society.

AACC Urges Male Champions and Churches to **Turn Gender Justice Commitments into Action**

Ms. Faustina Nillan

On 10th September 2026, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) convened a continental webinar on *"Transformative Masculinities: Strengthening Male Champions for Gender Justice,"* calling on men, boys and faith communities to challenge harmful gender norms and take greater responsibility for preventing gender-based violence (GBV).

Organised through the AACC Gender, Women, Youth and Sustainable Population Department, the webinar brought together approximately 65 participants from across Africa, including male champions, church leaders, gender justice advocates and representatives of youth and women's networks.

Delivering the keynote address, Ann Kioi, Director of the Department, emphasised the need to translate commitments to gender equality into practical and measurable interventions. She encouraged churches to strengthen institutional policies, promote meaningful male engagement and reinforce community accountability in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Maputo Protocol and the Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel, Director of AACC's Peace, Development, Ecclesial Leadership and Theology Department, highlighted the theological foundations of human dignity and challenged religious interpretations used to justify male dominance and discrimination.

Discussions explored how patriarchal attitudes, harmful social norms and institutional practices perpetuated inequality and violence. Participants emphasised that transformative masculinities required sustained engagement with families, churches, traditional leaders and communities.

The webinar identified practical priorities, including strengthening national male champions platforms, introducing safeguarding policies within churches, developing contextual Bible study resources and mentoring emerging male advocates for gender justice. The AACC reaffirmed its commitment to promoting partnerships between women and men in advancing equality, dignity and peaceful communities. The gathering concluded by encouraging male champions to move beyond awareness-raising towards accountable action that protects women and girls and transforms harmful practices.



Screenshots from the male champions webinars held in September 2026. (Credit: Ms. Faustina Nillan)

Youth

Brian Muyunga

04



AACC Equips Young Church Leaders in **Lesotho to Promote Gender Equality and SRHR**

Brian Muyunga

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), in partnership with the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA) conducted a three-day Youth Training on Faith, Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Lesotho from 31st July to 2nd August 2026.

The training brought together young church leaders to strengthen their capacity to address pressing social issues through a faith-based approach. The programme combined expert presentations with contextual Bible studies to equip participants with knowledge and tools needed to strengthen youth agency in holistic Christian mission in their communities and beyond.

During the first day, participants examined Lesotho's Gender and SRHR landscape, discussing Gender Based Violence, maternal health, HIV prevention, adolescent and youth wellbeing and barriers to accessing health services.

They also explored the church's role in safeguarding human dignity and gender equality, enabling access to accurate information and in promoting holistic wellbeing.

The second and third days focused on Contextual Bible Studies, addressing issues such as GBV, abuse of power, menstrual health and healthy relationships. Using the AACC's Young Peoples Resource Pack on Faith, Love and Life: A Contextual Bible Study Manual on SRHR, these sessions demonstrated how faith can inspire compassion, justice and social transformation.

From the training emerged a shared commitment to launch a nationwide campaign promoting menstrual hygiene and challenging menstruation-related stigma through education and community engagement. While launching the one-year action plan the participants developed to begin off this initiative, each of them made a financial contribution towards the budget needed to implement the beginning activities.

"The training was significant for Lesotho. It helped us appreciate that promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights requires both spiritual grounding and practical action." Noted Mr. Morapelo Lebohang Ramoleko, a youth member of the AACC General Executive Committees from LECSA during the closing ceremony.



Participants engaging in a team building activity on 31st July 2026. (Credit: T. S. Mabeya)

ELCT Youth Congress Demonstrates the Growing **Strength of African Ecumenical Youth Leadership**

Brian Muyunga

From 5th to 9th August 2026, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) held its National Youth Congress at the University of Dodoma. The congress brought together more than 500 young people for spiritual reflection, fellowship and discussions on their role in the church and society. It also attracted representatives from the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC), reflecting the growing spirit of ecumenical fellowship and solidarity among young Christians in East Africa.

The gathering was guided by a theme drawn from Luke 2:49. Addressing participants, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) Executive Secretary for Youth, Muyunga Brian, highlighted the organisation's continental campaign, Africa: My Home. My Future., and its commitment to inspiring young Africans to embrace active citizenship. He encouraged Tanzanian Christian youth to take responsibility for addressing challenges within their communities and contributing to the continent's sustainable development.

A notable highlight was the involvement of several participants from the 2nd All Africa Youth Congress (AAYC), held in Nairobi in 2025, who had since assumed responsibilities in organising and facilitating the national gathering. Their participation reflected the continuing influence of continental ecumenical engagement at national and local levels.

The AACC commended the ELCT youth fraternity for successfully organising the Congress and creating opportunities for young people to deepen their faith, exchange experiences and strengthen relationships across church and national boundaries.



Mr. Brian Muyunga and his interpreter, Mr. Mbise Joshua Wilson addressing the ELCT National Youth Congress. (Credit: Anania Ndondole).

AACC Convenes Egyptian Youth Leaders to Reflect on **Eco stewardship, Ecumenism and the Africa We Want**

Brian Muyunga

As part of the International Youth Day and Week celebrations, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) convened a two-day Youth Roundtable on Eco stewardship, Ecumenism and Pan-Africanism in pursuit of the Africa We Want in Cairo, Egypt. The gathering took place on 13th and 14th August 2026 under the International Youth Day 2026 theme, "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations: Christian Youth Shaping the Africa We Want." It provided a platform for young Christian leaders to examine the realities confronting young people and communities in Egypt and across Africa, while reflecting on the contribution of Christian youth leadership towards a more just, peaceful and sustainable continent.

Facilitated by the AACC Executive Secretary for Youth, Brian Muyunga, the discussions considered the aspirations of young Africans as expressed in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. Participants examined how these aspirations relate to the realities young people face today and reflected on the responsibility of the Church to accompany and empower youth as active participants in Africa's transformation.

The conversations highlighted that, although young people live in diverse contexts, they share many common aspirations, including dignity, meaningful participation, sustainable livelihoods, peace, justice and a healthy environment. Through small-group contextual Bible studies, participants engaged questions of ecological and economic justice from a Christian perspective. The Bible studies provided an accessible way for participants to connect Scripture with contemporary realities, reflecting on humanity's responsibility towards creation and the implications of Christian discipleship in the face of environmental degradation.

Participants also reflected on environmental challenges within their own Egyptian context and considered how young people can move from awareness to meaningful action. The discussions explored the importance of youth leadership, community engagement, faith-based action and collective responsibility in responding to ecological challenges.



Group photo of the participants. (Credit: Brian Muyunga)

Throughout the two-day gathering, participants examined the role of the Church in accompanying young people and strengthening their capacity to respond to the challenges facing their communities.

The discussions affirmed the importance of creating spaces where young people can bring their experiences, questions, creativity and leadership into the life and mission of the Church.

For Ms. Marit Maher, one of the participants, the gathering provided an opportunity to encounter new ideas and perspectives.

"This was my first time to participate in such a forum and even learn about ecumenism and the Africa We Want. It has been very transformative, and I am going to share the knowledge and resources gained here with many youth in my church." She noted during the closing session. Ecumenical engagement was recognized as an important avenue for building solidarity and strengthening collective Christian action on issues affecting Africa and the world at large.

AACC Inspires Kenyan Lutheran Youth to **Translate Faith into Transformative Leadership**

Brian Muyunga



Mr. Brian Muyunga delivering his Keynote Address at the KELC National youth Rally. (Credit: Patrick Musembi).

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) encouraged young Christians to embrace transformative leadership and actively contribute to Africa's sustainable development during the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC) National Youth Rally, held from 19th to 23rd August 2026 in Kilifi, Kenya. Convened under the theme *"Rooted in Christ, Growing to Transform the World" (Colossians 2:6–7),* the rally was coordinated by the KELC National youth coordinator, Patrick Musembi and it brought together over 500 young people for spiritual enrichment, leadership development, fellowship and reflection on their role in the church and society.

The KELC Bishop, Rt. Rev. Catherine, served as the theme expositor, guiding participants in reflecting on the importance of remaining grounded in Christ as the foundation for Christian living and service.

Delivering the keynote address, AACC Executive Secretary for Youth, Muyunga Brian, presented the rally's theme as a leadership framework for African Christian youth. He emphasised that spiritual growth should inspire responsible leadership, active participation in church life and meaningful contributions to Africa's sustainable development.

Beyond the theological reflections, participants engaged in discussions on mental health, entrepreneurship and active citizenship, exploring challenges and opportunities shaping the lives of young Africans.

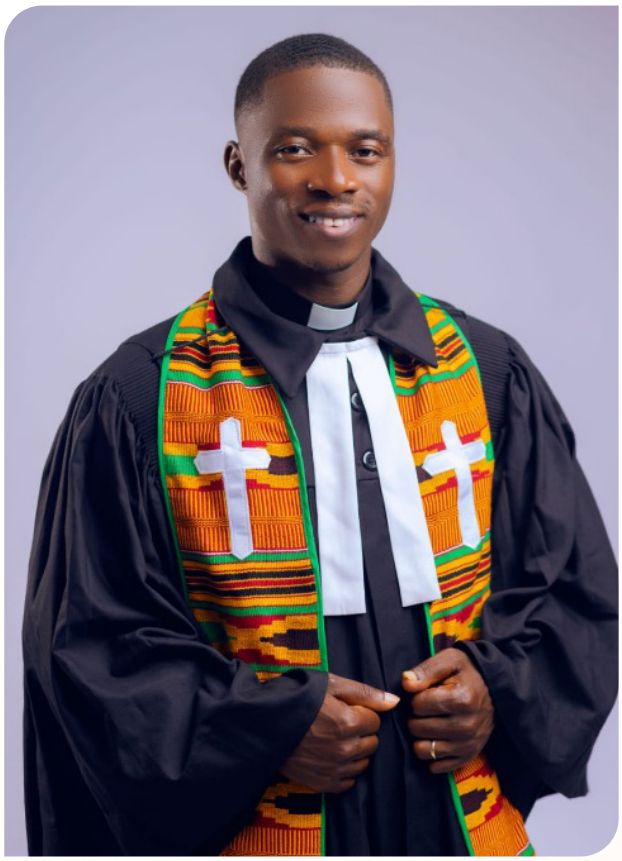
On 22nd August 2026, the youth demonstrated their commitment to environmental stewardship through a march to the beach, followed by a clean-up exercise. The activity provided a practical expression of their faith and responsibility to care for God's creation. The rally also celebrated cultural diversity through creative performances and a cultural night, strengthening fellowship among participants. Ecumenical solidarity was further demonstrated by a delegation from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), led by Rev. Frank, which travelled to Kenya to participate in the gathering.

AAYN Member Appointed FECCIWA Youth Coordinator, **Sets Sights on Strengthening Youth Ecumenism in West Africa**

Brian Muyunga

On 24th August 2026, Rev. Fiabu Felix Yao an ordained minister of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana and member of the All Africa Youth Network (AAYN) was appointed Youth Coordinator of the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA).

Rev. Fiabu is a youth member of the AACC General Committee and an Alternate Member of its Executive Committee. He also served on the Second All Africa Youth Congress Steering Committee. While sharing leadership experiences and goals with the AACC's Executive Secretary for Youth, Brian Muyunga, Rev. Felix expressed his plan to invest his time, skills and resources in strengthening the spirit of ecumenism and Pan-Africanism among young people in Western Africa as he coordinates the youth members of the FECCIWA's member churches and Christian councils.



Rev. Felix Fiabu's Portrait. (Credit: Brian Muyunga).

"I am not starting a new work; rather, I am excited about this opportunity to continue and strengthen the work we have been doing through AAYN and AACC at the regional level. I look forward to working closely with, AACC and other ecumenical organisations to champion a shared vision of strengthening youth ecumenism, empowering young people, and promoting transformative Christian witness across West Africa."

His vision prioritizes ecumenical cooperation, Pan-Africanism and Active citizenship, peacebuilding, interfaith dialogue, gender justice, youth leadership and ecological justice.

The AACC delights in seeing Christian youth leaders grow into strategic leadership spaces that afford them opportunities to meaningfully contribute to the transformative mission of their churches, the growth and sustainability of ecumenism and pan-Africanism and in the holistic development of their countries.

Congratulations to Rev. Felix and May God bless his leadership.

AACC Equips Youth to Counter **Tech-Facilitated Violent Extremism**

Brian Muyunga

From 6th to 8th August 2026, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) convened a three-day interfaith dialogue to strengthen young people's capacity to counter technology-facilitated violent extremism and promote peace across digital platforms.

In his remarks, the AACC ICT Officer, Mr. Humphrey Chivini emphasised the importance of equipping young people with values and practical skills to confront online hatred, misinformation and radicalization.

The dialogue was facilitated by Thando Vundi from Kenya and Charmante Biseso from the Democratic Republic of Congo and it examined how social media, artificial intelligence and gaming platforms could be exploited to spread extremist narratives and deepen divisions.

Participants explored practical approaches to identifying and challenging harmful online content. Discussions also examined how stereotypes, economic hardship, inequality and social isolation could increase vulnerability to extremist recruitment. Participants were encouraged to develop inclusive counter-narratives, promote responsible journalism, amplify marginalized voices and strengthen interfaith collaboration across national boundaries.



Youth-Led Digital Campaign Counters **Tech-Facilitated Violent Extremism in DRC**

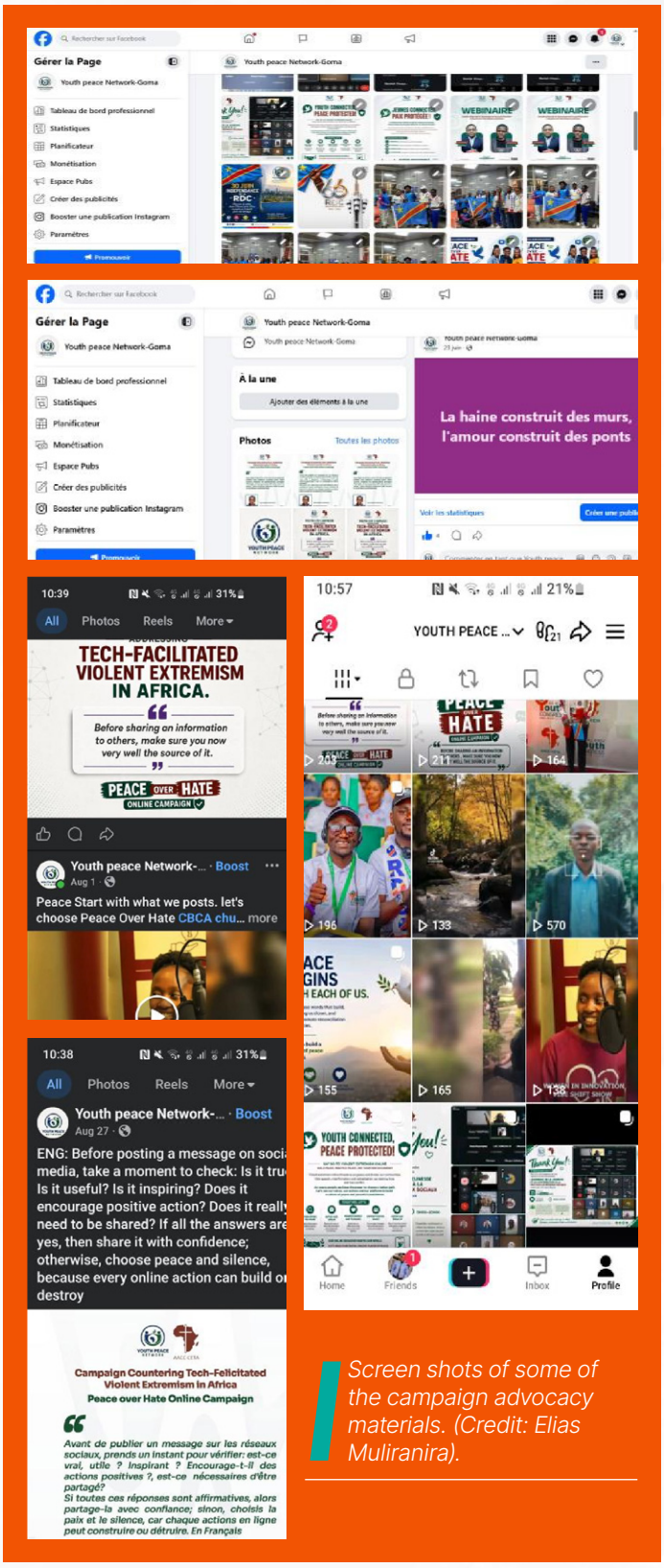
Brian Muyunga

From July to September 2026, young people in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), implemented the Peace Over Hate Online Campaign, an initiative supported by the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) to counter technology-facilitated violent extremism and promote peaceful coexistence, digital literacy and responsible online engagement.

The campaign was led by Elias Mukirania Kasereka, Coordinator of the Youth Peace Network–Goma (YPN-Goma), affiliated with the Baptist Community in Central Africa (CBCA), Birere Church in North Kivu. Through the campaign, young people sought to challenge hate speech, misinformation and extremist narratives by developing and sharing positive messages across digital platforms. The initiative encouraged them to recognise the dangers of online radicalisation while embracing technology as a tool for peacebuilding.

A central component was the Digital Content Production Lab, through which participating youth developed short videos, graphics and awareness messages promoting tolerance, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. The activity provided opportunities for young people to apply their creativity and digital communication skills in developing constructive alternatives to harmful online narratives.

The campaign also used social media platforms to encourage critical thinking, responsible digital engagement and greater awareness of how online content could fuel hatred, division and violence. The activities highlighted the importance of producing accessible, youth-friendly peace messages and strengthening young people's capacity to critically assess digital information and resist extremist narrative in the DRC.



Screen shots of some of the campaign advocacy materials. (Credit: Elias Muliranira).

AACC Launches 2026 Youth Entrepreneurship **Awards to Celebrate Young African Innovators**

Brian Muyunga



On 18th September 2026, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) opened nominations for the 2026 All Africa Youth Network (AAYN) Entrepreneurship Awards, inviting young entrepreneurs across the continent to showcase innovative enterprises that contribute to Africa's transformation. The initiative forms part of the AACC's Africa: My Home. My Future. campaign, which seeks to inspire young Africans to take an active role in shaping the continent's development.

The awards aim to recognize, celebrate and support faith-inspired youth-led businesses that demonstrate creativity, responsible stewardship and a commitment to addressing Africa's social, economic and environmental challenges.

Three award categories have been established to recognize different dimensions of youth entrepreneurship. The Digital Innovation and Enterprise Award celebrates entrepreneurs harnessing technologies such as artificial intelligence, financial technology and digital solutions to address societal challenges. The Stewards of Creation Award recognizes environmentally sustainable enterprises contributing to climate action, conservation and resilient livelihoods.

The Builders of African Unity Award honours businesses promoting peace, social cohesion, regional integration and cross-border collaboration.

Each category winner will receive USD 2,000 to support the growth of their enterprise. Shortlisted entrepreneurs will also benefit from increased visibility, networking opportunities and recognition within the AAYN community, including opportunities to participate in future AACC youth entrepreneurship initiatives.

The awards are open to entrepreneurs aged 18–35 affiliated with AACC member churches or national councils of churches, whose legally registered enterprises demonstrate social impact or contribute to sustainable development.

Through this initiative, the AACC seeks to encourage young Africans to view entrepreneurship not merely as a means of earning a livelihood, but as an opportunity to create employment, address community challenges and contribute meaningfully to building a prosperous, peaceful and sustainable Africa.

AACC Youth Take Conversations on **Responsible Parenthood and Family Wellbeing to African Communities**

Brian Muyunga

From July to August 2026, young people from All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) member churches facilitated community conversations on responsible parenthood, reproductive health and family wellbeing across eight African countries, using biblical reflections and participatory activities to encourage informed decisions about family life.

In Tete, Mozambique, participants at the Presbyterian Church engaged in an exercise titled *"The Backpack of the Future,"* using a backpack to illustrate the resources and responsibilities associated with raising a family. A Contextual Bible Study on Genesis 1:28 and Genesis 2:15 encouraged participants to consider population growth alongside care for creation.

In Angola's Cuanza Norte Province, discussions on **Genesis 1:28** challenged interpretations that associated God's command to multiply with having as many children as possible. One participant acknowledged that the study had helped her reconsider family planning as part of responsible parenthood. In Namibe, **Luke 14:28–33** provided a basis for discussing preparation for family life and misconceptions about contraception.

In Gabon, youth from the Evangelical Church organised sessions in Owendo and Bitam, connecting education, health and family decisions with the wellbeing of future generations.

Similar conversations in Sierra Leone examined household finances, employment, housing and access to essential services. Participants at Bishop Elwin Anglican Church expressed interest in extending the discussions to neighbouring communities, while Presbyterian youth in Cameroon explored the implications of reproductive health decisions for families.

Despite cultural resistance, misinformation and limited resources, the activities demonstrated how churches could create spaces for discussing sensitive family matters.

Through its Sustainable Population Growth Programme, the AACC continues to support young people in promoting healthier families and sustainable communities.



Youth leaders during a peer-peer Contextual Bible Study on Sustainable Population Growth in Mozambique in July 2026. (Credit: Laquitissa Tseco).

AACC Youth Challenge Stigma and Misinformation **on Reproductive Health Across African Churches**

Brian Muyunga

During July and August 2026, youth leaders from member churches of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) facilitated conversations on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) across eight African countries, challenging misinformation, cultural stigma and barriers to open discussions within churches and communities.

At the Reformed Church in Zambia's Mtendere Congregation in Lusaka, young people gathered on 23rd August 2026 for interactive discussions on relationships, consent and informed decision-making. Through debates, storytelling and role plays, participants examined everyday challenges, including misinformation circulating on social media.

In Lesotho, 72 learners at Mosamo Primary School participated in menstrual health education aimed at addressing stigma and misconceptions. The conversations extended to rural communities, where parents, including fathers, discussed their responsibility in supporting young people's wellbeing.

In Douala, Cameroon, 200 Presbyterian youth explored contraception, consent, infertility and sexually transmitted infections, using testimonies and group discussions to challenge common misconceptions.

In Angola's Namibe Province, a Contextual Bible Study encouraged participants to seek reliable reproductive health information. One young woman working at the 5 de Abril market acknowledged having relied on neighbourhood rumours about contraceptives and expressed her intention to consult a health professional.

Meanwhile, 170 participants at a youth camp in Foni Kampant, The Gambia, discussed SRHR, mental health, hygiene and abuse, calling for more regular conversations within church gatherings.



Youth leaders of the Methodist Church in Gambia facilitating a community dialogue on SRHR in August 2026. (Credit: Macauley Elsie).

Ecological Justice

05

Dr. Tinashe Gumbo



AFAN-CJ Advocates Stronger Support for **African Climate Negotiators at Citizens' Forum**

By Dr. Tinashe Gumbo

The Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ) participated in the Citizens' Forum convened by the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 24th to 25th July 2026.

Coordinated through the AACC's African Union Liaison and Advocacy Office, the network's participation provided an opportunity to advance faith perspectives on climate justice. AFAN-CJ was the only faith-based network represented at the forum, which brings together African non-state actors ahead of African Union Mid-Term Review Meetings. AACC Programme Executive for Ecological Justice, Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, contributed to a panel on climate action and just energy transitions alongside civil society representatives, academics and members of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN).

He proposed establishing an Africa Situation Room at COP31 in Turkey to provide negotiators with timely, reliable and comprehensive information. He highlighted AFAN-CJ's continental reach as a resource for gathering evidence from communities affected by climate change.

Other panellists supported stronger technical assistance for African negotiators, noting gaps in support during previous climate conferences. Reflecting on the engagement, Dr. Gumbo described the forum as an opportunity to demonstrate how faith networks can strengthen Africa's positions in climate negotiations. The engagement raised AFAN-CJ's visibility within ECOSOCC and identified opportunities for cooperation in connecting community experiences with continental and global climate advocacy.



Dr Tinashe Gumbo participating in a panel on climate action and just energy transitions at the 2026 Citizens Forum. (Credit: Dr. Tinashe Gumbo).

AACC Advances Faith **Perspectives at SADC People's Summit**

By Dr. Tinashe Gumbo

The AACC participated in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) People's Summit in Durban, South Africa, from 14th to 15th August 2026, contributing faith perspectives to regional discussions on justice, peace and development. The summit ran under the theme *"Strengthening People's Solidarity in a Polycrisis of Debt, Inequality, Conflict, Extractivism and Climate Change."* Participants included civil society organisations, community groups, academics, labour representatives and faith leaders.

AACC Programme Executive for Ecological Justice, Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, represented the Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ) and the AACC Economic Justice Champions. General Secretaries of national councils of churches from Mozambique, Lesotho, Eswatini and Namibia also attended, strengthening faith representation in the discussions.

The AACC contributed to two side events addressing governance and peace, alongside critical minerals and development. These engagements highlighted concerns about resource extraction, climate change, accountability and the wellbeing of communities.

Dr. Gumbo also served on the technical team responsible for drafting the Summit Declaration, helping ensure that faith actors' concerns informed its recommendations. The recommendations were submitted to the SADC Heads of State and Government.

The summit provided opportunities for faith actors to work with other movements in shaping regional policy proposals. AACC's participation also complemented the advocacy of member councils, reinforcing its commitment to supporting churches' engagement in decisions affecting communities across Southern Africa.



Dr. Tinashe Gumbo (far right) and Mandlenkosi Hadebe of the Economic Justice Network (in the middle) with the General Secretaries of the National Council of Churches in Eswatini, Namibia and Lesotho. (Credit: Dr. Tinashe Gumbo).

AFAN-CJ Mobilises Faith Communities **for Africa Can't Wait Climate Campaign**

By Dr. Tinashe Gumbo

The Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ) joined faith institutions, civil society and climate activists to launch the *"Africa Can't Wait: Interfaith Voices for Just Climate Action"* campaign in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 8th September 2026.

Held alongside the Fourteenth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, the launch mobilised support for equitable, locally led, rights-centred and inclusive implementation of existing climate commitments ahead of COP32 in Ethiopia in 2027.

Reading the campaign petition on behalf of partners, AACC Programme Executive for Ecological Justice, Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, called for urgent action that responds to communities' needs. The petition seeks to collect more than one million signatures by 2027. Dr. Gumbo highlighted the gap between pledges made by developed countries and their implementation. He emphasised that faith actors are often among the first responders when climate-related disasters strike and pledged to mobilise AFAN-CJ members across Africa.

"For us, matters of climate change are matters of life and death," he said.

The launch attracted over 150 participants in person, with others joining online. Participants included government representatives, African climate negotiators, faith leaders, civil society, academics and the media.

Partners supporting the campaign include ACT Alliance, AACC, Norwegian Church Aid, GreenFaith Africa and the Laudato Si' Movement, alongside 22 additional faith partners. Together, they seek to turn collective advocacy into stronger accountability for climate commitments.



Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, AACC Programme Executive for Ecological Justice, reading the Campaign Petition. (Credit: Dr. Tinashe Gumbo).

Economic Justice

06

Mr. Adrian Chikowore



AACC Anti-Corruption Webinars Call on Faith Leaders to **Support Convention Ratification and Promote Integrity**

Mr. Adrian Chikowore

The AACC convened two webinars on 10th and 30th July 2026 to mark Africa Anti-Corruption Day and Month under the theme *"Fighting Corruption and Impunity in the Stewardship of Public Financial and Natural Resources."*

The discussions highlighted integrity as a foundation for preventing corruption and encouraged citizens to practise and demand accountability in public and private life. The first webinar also set the agenda for local initiatives supported by the AACC through its Economic Justice Champions to strengthen action against corruption and impunity.

Addressing participants, Mrs. Charity Nchimunya, Executive Secretary of the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AU-ABC), emphasised that corruption undermines sustainable development, good governance, peace, security, social justice and human rights.

She called on faith leaders to support consultations towards ratification of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption in the remaining five countries. Adopted on 11th July 2003, the Convention provides a continental framework for preventing corruption and strengthening accountability.

Mrs. Nchimunya noted that, despite progress in legal and institutional frameworks, corruption continues to divert public resources, weaken justice systems and erode public trust.

Faith actors committed to advancing initiatives that promote integrity within communities and strengthen cooperation from national to continental levels. The webinars reaffirmed the role of churches in mobilising citizens to resist corruption and demand responsible stewardship of public financial and natural resources.





Africa Anti-Corruption Day Commemoration webinar flyer

Young Faith Leaders in Cameroon Pledge to **Promote Integrity and Fight Corruption**

Mr. Adrian Chikowore

Young faith leaders adopted a collective Youth Integrity Commitment Statement during the Cameroon Interfaith Youth Forum on Integrity and Anti-Corruption, held on 16th July 2026 at the Presbyterian Church Nsimeyong in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Organised to commemorate Africa Anti-Corruption Day, the forum ran under the theme *"Youth as Integrity Champions: Mobilising Faith Communities to Scale Up Anti-Corruption Actions in Cameroon."* It brought together youth leaders from different faith communities, civil society actors and members of the public to reflect on young people's role in promoting accountability and ethical leadership. Discussions highlighted the influence of churches and other faith institutions in shaping values and behaviour. Participants recognised these institutions as important partners in challenging corruption and impunity and considered how stronger cooperation between faith leaders and young people could support anti-corruption advocacy.

The forum encouraged youth to promote integrity in their schools, workplaces, churches and communities. Participants also emphasised the need for continued awareness-raising, mentorship and opportunities for practical engagement to equip young people as integrity champions. Through the Youth Integrity Commitment Statement, participants publicly pledged to uphold honesty, accountability and ethical conduct in their personal, professional and community lives. The commitment provided a shared foundation for continued collaboration and affirmed young people's responsibility to translate their faith and values into everyday action against corruption.



Cameroon Interfaith Youth Convening on Anti-Corruption participants. (Credit: Adrian Chikowore).

Council of Eswatini Churches Engages Independent Commissions to **Strengthen Action Against Corruption**

Mr. Adrian Chikowore

The Council of Eswatini Churches (CEC), with support from the AACC through its locally led initiatives, convened a panel discussion on human rights, integrity and the fight against corruption on 23rd July 2026.

Led by AACC Economic Justice Champion Rev. Dr. Shabalala, the discussion ran under the theme *"Integrity, Human Rights and Accountability: The Role of the Church in Combating Corruption in Eswatini."*



CEC Panel session with Eswatini Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Commission. (Credit: Adrian Chikowore).

The CEC partnered with the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration/Integrity to examine how corruption affects access to healthcare, education, social services, employment and public resources. The engagement also helped church leaders understand the commissions' mandates and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Rev. Dr. Shabalala, Anti-Corruption Commission representative Mr. Menzi Tsela and Deputy Commissioner Mr. Nichodemus Mashwama emphasised the influence of faith communities in shaping ethical values and encouraging responsible citizenship. Discussions highlighted how the diversion of public resources weakens service delivery and disproportionately affects vulnerable communities.

The initiative attracted the interest of the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption, which noted that Eswatini remains among five countries yet to ratify the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

The AACC and CEC are developing terms of reference for a contextual study to examine factors behind the delayed ratification, despite existing legislation and institutions. The study will inform further engagement on strengthening Eswatini's commitment to continental anti-corruption efforts.

AACC Contributes to Development of **Africa Impunity Index to Strengthen Accountability**

Mr. Adrian Chikowore

The AACC participated in an inception workshop on the development of an Africa Impunity Index in Abuja, Nigeria, from 20th to 24th July 2026, alongside the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center (CISLAC) and the Pan Africana Strategic and Policy Research Group (PANAFSTRAG). The workshop brought together civil society and academic representatives to examine impunity, review existing anti-corruption efforts and explore ways to measure institutional accountability across Africa.

Participants considered impunity both as the absence of legal consequences for unlawful conduct and as a wider governance challenge that erodes public trust, weakens institutions and obstructs sustainable development. Discussions emphasised the need for an African-led index grounded in the continent's political, legal and socioeconomic realities. Participants agreed that the proposed tool should draw on credible evidence and assess institutional performance in promoting accountability and the rule of law. Its findings would help inform policy reforms and strengthen transparency.

The workshop established a shared understanding of the index's objectives and scope. Participants also agreed to involve government institutions, civil society organisations, academia, development partners and other relevant actors throughout its development.

The AACC's contribution focuses on conceptualising the index's dimensions on cultural behaviours and economic exploitation. This engagement brings faith-based perspectives into a wider effort to understand the conditions that sustain impunity and develop practical measures to confront it.



AACC Advances Faith Perspectives on **Africa's Common Position on Debt**

Mr. Adrian Chikowore



Faith Actors Panel Session Rev Dimingu (ZCC- General Secretary), Faith Lumonya (PSI) - Adrian Chikowore (AACC), Franklin Opuko (NCA). (Credit: Adrian Chikowore).

On 27th August 2026, the AACC convened a side session in Nairobi, Kenya, during the Sixth African Conference on Debt and Development (AfCoDD VI) to strengthen faith actors' contributions to Africa's Common Position on Debt.

Under the title *"Understanding the Debt Landscape from Jubilee 2000 to the G20 Common Framework,"* the session explored debt challenges and proposals for reforming the global financial architecture.

The AACC participated alongside regional members, including the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, bringing faith perspectives to discussions on debt, climate finance and international financial governance.

The AACC also contributed to partner engagements, including Christian Aid's session, *"From Position to Power: Making the CAP on Debt and Borrowers' Platform Work for People."*

Discussions affirmed the role of faith communities in connecting people affected by debt burdens with policymakers. Participants emphasised that financing for development must support dignified livelihoods and advance the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Faith actors were encouraged to strengthen the Church's role in challenging malpractice in public financial management. They also called on partners and other stakeholders to support religious leaders and institutions facing political backlash for demanding accountability.

Recognising faith communities' contribution to the Jubilee 2000 campaign, participants urged them to use religious diplomacy to advance debt cancellation. The conference provided opportunities to strengthen continental networks and collective advocacy for financial arrangements that respond to African communities' needs.

AACC Nominated as Advocacy and Policy Focal Point for **Norwegian Church Aid's Africa Programme**

Mr. Adrian Chikowore

The AACC was nominated as the advocacy and policy focal point for Norwegian Church Aid's Advocacy Programme for Africa (NAPA) during its Partner Learning and Reflections Meeting, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 10th to 14th August 2026.

Convened under the theme ***"Strengthening Evidence, Learning, Advocacy and Collective Impact,"*** the meeting brought together partners from Eastern and Southern Africa to assess progress, share implementation experiences and agree on priorities for stronger collective advocacy.

Participants identified the need to improve results management, including data quality, surveys, outcome measurement and the interpretation of indicators. They emphasised that reporting should demonstrate meaningful changes in communities and institutions, alongside documenting activities.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of connecting community experiences with research, communications and policy influence. Partners shared examples of how evidence from local communities can inform advocacy at national, regional, continental and global levels.

The AACC's nomination provides an opportunity to contribute to coordinating these efforts and strengthening partners' engagement with policy processes.

Participants broadly endorsed the proposed NAPA Advocacy Strategy as a framework for collective action to address gaps between policy commitments and implementation. Its priorities span peacebuilding, climate justice, gender justice, public finance and natural resource governance. The meeting reaffirmed partners' commitment to learning together, strengthening evidence and advancing coordinated advocacy that holds institutions accountable and responds to community priorities.



Group photo of NAPA Partners. (Credit: Adrian Chikowore).

AACC Policy Panel Calls for Equitable Climate Finance **at Africa Can't Wait Campaign Launch**

Mr. Adrian Chikowore

On 8th September 2026, the AACC joined Norwegian Church Aid, ACT Alliance, GreenFaith and other partners to launch the ***"Africa Can't Wait"*** interfaith climate campaign in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The campaign mobilises faith communities to demand implementation of climate commitments, particularly support from developed countries for adaptation in affected African communities. It also builds momentum towards COP32, to be hosted in Addis Ababa in 2027.

The launch brought together over 150 participants in person, alongside others joining virtually. They included faith leaders, Ethiopian government representatives, the African Group of Negotiators, civil society organisations, development partners and the media. AACC leadership and Ethiopian members of the African Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice also participated.

The AACC facilitated a policy panel titled ***"From Policy to Practice: What Does Just Implementation Look Like for Africa?"*** Discussions examined structural and financial barriers preventing governments from translating climate policies into practical programmes that reach communities. Contributions from the African Group of Negotiators highlighted opportunities to influence international climate diplomacy so that global financing arrangements support equitable implementation at local level.

The engagement placed fair public financing at the centre of climate action, stressing the need to connect international commitments with communities' adaptation priorities.
Through the campaign, the AACC and fellow faith actors strengthened continental cooperation and advocacy for accountable climate finance, just transitions and sustainable livelihoods.



Policy Panel Session at the Africa Can't Wait Campaign Launch. (Credit: Adrian Chikowore).

AACC Calls for Accountable Mining Governance **at African Business and Human Rights Forum**

Mr. Adrian Chikowore

The AACC participated in the Fifth African Business and Human Rights Forum in Dakar, Senegal, from 29th September to 1st October 2026, advocating democratic governance and stronger protections for communities affected by mining.

The forum brought together governments, businesses, civil society and affected communities to advance responsible business conduct. AACC's participation built on its engagement in the East and Horn of Africa Business and Human Rights Dialogue in Nairobi in June 2026.

The AACC Economic Justice Programme Executive contributed as a panellist to the session *"The Moral Compass of Mining: Faith, Justice and Environmental Rights in Africa's Mining Sector."*

Discussions called for adequately funded, independent oversight bodies with clear tools to enforce environmental and human rights standards. Participants also recommended stronger anti-corruption laws, independent audits and accessible legal remedies to prevent officials and companies from evading their responsibilities.

These recommendations reflected the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which affirm states' duty to protect human rights, businesses' responsibility to respect them and the need for access to remedy.

Faith actors were recognised as partners in amplifying community voices and accompanying those seeking justice. They called for access to information, meaningful consultation throughout the mining lifecycle and effective grievance mechanisms.

The session affirmed that communities must remain at the centre of mining governance, supported by cooperation among governments, businesses, faith institutions and civil society.



Cameroon Interfaith Youth Convening on Anti-Corruption participants. (Credit: Adrian Chikowore).

AACC Advances Tax Justice and Strengthens **Partnerships at Pan-African Conference**

Mr. Adrian Chikowore

The AACC participated in the 14th Pan-African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation, held in Dakar, Senegal, from 29th September to 2nd October 2026 under the theme *"Advancing a Transformative Tax Justice Agenda for Africa."*

Convened by Tax Justice Network Africa, the conference brought together policymakers, parliamentarians, researchers, faith actors, civil society organisations and development partners. Discussions examined how tax systems can support redistribution, economic transformation, public services and accountability.
The AACC's engagement focused on advancing the Zacchaeus Tax Campaign and strengthening connections between tax justice and the financing of essential social services. Contributions highlighted the role of Christian Health Associations and other private, not-for-profit institutions in healthcare delivery, emphasising the importance of sustainable health financing.

The conference also provided opportunities to build partnerships with organisations working on priorities shared by the AACC. Engagement with Tax Justice Network Africa explored opportunities to strengthen faith actors' participation in tax reform advocacy at national, regional and global levels, including ongoing United Nations processes on international tax cooperation.

For the AACC, these partnerships offer opportunities to equip member churches to connect community experiences with policy discussions on taxation and public spending.



Faith Partners at PAC. (Credit: Adrian Chikowore).

The conference reinforced the importance of fair and effective domestic resource mobilisation to finance social services sustainably.

It also provided a platform for faith actors to advocate tax policies that uphold human dignity and respond to communities' needs.

AACC Regional Office in Lomé

07

Rev. Angele Dogbe



AACC Regional Director Engages Angolan Minister on **Irregular Migration and Child Trafficking**

Rev. Angèle Dogbè

On 24th July 2026, Rev. Angèle Wilson-Dogbé, Director of the AACC Regional Office in Lomé and Migration, paid a courtesy visit to Angola's Minister of Culture and Tourism, Hon. Filipe Silvino de Pina Zau, alongside the national consultation on irregular migration and child trafficking.

The meeting highlighted the challenges of irregular migration, child trafficking and exploitation affecting children and young people across Africa. Discussions emphasised the need for coordinated action involving government institutions, civil society organisations and faith communities to prevent abuse and protect vulnerable populations.

Community awareness, human dignity and collective responsibility for safeguarding children were central to the engagement. Churches and faith organisations were recognised as important partners because of their close relationships with communities, their ability to mobilise citizens and their commitment to social justice.

The Minister welcomed the Church's involvement in addressing irregular migration and child trafficking. He commended the AACC and the Council of Christian Churches in Angola for convening the consultation and affirmed that protecting children and promoting safe, dignified migration require sustained cooperation.

The national consultation sought to deepen understanding of the causes and consequences of irregular migration and strengthen responses to child trafficking. Particular attention was given to deceptive recruitment practices used by trafficking networks, including through digital platforms, and the need for effective community and institutional protection mechanisms.

The courtesy visit reinforced the importance of dialogue between national authorities and faith institutions in addressing these challenges. It highlighted opportunities for churches to support prevention efforts through awareness, community mobilisation and advocacy for vulnerable children and young people.

Through this engagement, the AACC reaffirmed its commitment to building safer communities where children and young people can access opportunities, pursue their aspirations and live with dignity. Continued collaboration remains essential to preventing exploitation and ensuring that their protection becomes a shared and sustained priority.



Rev. Angele thanking the Honorable Filipe Silvino de Pina Zau, Angolan Minister of Culture and Tourism. (Credit: Rev Angele Dogbe).

AACC Marks Anti-Trafficking Day with **Maputo March and Press Conference**

Rev. Angèle Dogbè

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) convened 50 participants from 15 Angolan churches for a national consultation on preventing irregular migration and protecting children from human trafficking, held from 13th to 15th July 2026. Organised in partnership with the Angolan Government, UNICEF and international organisations, the consultation equipped churches and communities to reduce the vulnerability of children, adolescents and young people to exploitation.

Through interactive sessions, participants examined challenges including limited awareness of migration risks, economic vulnerability, deceptive promises of employment abroad and the growing use of digital platforms to recruit adolescents for exploitation.

A visit to a care centre for child survivors of trafficking brought participants face to face with the human consequences of exploitation. Survivors' testimonies reinforced the importance of protection, rehabilitation and restoring dignity and hope.

Participants recommended stronger prosecution of traffickers, improved border protection, increased support for organisations assisting survivors and expanded rehabilitation services. Churches committed to conducting regular awareness campaigns, integrating safe migration into pastoral ministry and cooperating with authorities to identify and support victims.

The consultation strengthened relationships among public institutions, international agencies and faith communities, laying a foundation for coordinated prevention and protection efforts. Participants left committed to translating the discussions into community action that safeguards children and young people from trafficking and exploitation.



Group photos of participants (Credit: Rev Angele Dogbe).

AACC Marks World Day Against Trafficking in **Persons with Awareness March and Press Conference in Maputo**

Rev. Angèle Dogbè



Some of the participants during the march. (Credit: Rev Angele Dogbe)

On 30th July 2026, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) marked World Day Against Trafficking in Persons with an awareness march through Maputo, Mozambique, followed by a press conference led by its General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki.

Held under the theme "Trapped Behind the Scam," the activities highlighted deceptive recruitment practices and called for collective action to protect children, young people and other vulnerable people from exploitation.

The march took the message into public spaces, warning that seemingly attractive offers of employment, education and travel may conceal trafficking schemes. It encouraged communities to recognise warning signs, verify opportunities and report suspected exploitation.

Addressing the media, Rev. Dr. Mwombeki drew attention to the increasingly sophisticated methods traffickers use to gain trust and exploit people's aspirations. He highlighted the vulnerability of children and young people to fraudulent opportunities advertised through online platforms and social media, stressing the importance of digital literacy and proactive protection. He called for a comprehensive response combining prevention, protection and support for survivors,



Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki address the press conference during the commemorations. (Credit: Rev. Angele Dogbe).

and accountability for perpetrators. Churches and faith communities, he noted, can contribute through their pastoral networks, educational activities and social ministries by identifying risks, raising awareness and accompanying survivors.

The General Secretary urged religious leaders, parents, teachers, youth organisations, civil society and government institutions to strengthen cooperation. Families and communities need reliable information and practical guidance to recognise deceptive recruitment and respond when exploitation is suspected. He also affirmed the importance of safe, informed and dignified migration. Young people seeking opportunities abroad were encouraged to verify recruitment agencies, employment contracts, educational offers and travel arrangements before making commitments.

Governments were called upon to strengthen anti-trafficking measures, investigate and prosecute offenders, and ensure appropriate protection and rehabilitation for survivors.

The commemoration formed part of the AACC's national consultation on combating irregular migration among children and youth to counter human trafficking, held from 29th to 31st July 2026. It connected public advocacy with dialogue among churches, government institutions and civil society.

The activities reaffirmed that preventing trafficking requires sustained vigilance and cooperation beyond a single commemorative day. The AACC called on churches, families, communities and public authorities to turn awareness into practical protection, ensuring that promises of opportunity lead to lives of freedom, dignity and hope.

The General Secretary urged religious leaders, parents, teachers, youth organisations, civil society and government institutions to strengthen cooperation.

Health and Healing

08

Ms. Ann Njeri Kioi



Faith in Action: The Church's Indispensable Role in Pandemic **Prevention, Preparedness, and Response**

Ms. Ann Njeri Kioi

Recent health emergencies across East Africa highlighted by severe Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and heightened regional vigilance demonstrate that the intersection of faith, public health, and community resilience is more critical than ever. While regional governments and partners have made commendable strides, such as Uganda successfully ending its outbreak through rigorous surveillance, ongoing threats like the DRC's complex epidemic reveal the persistent vulnerability of our healthcare systems. By 19 September 2026, the DRC had reported 7,672 confirmed cases and 3,699 deaths.

My recent engagements in global and regional Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPPR) webinars reinforce a vital truth: while governments supply policy frameworks and medical infrastructure, communities form the frontline of defense, with the Church at the heart of African community life.

During crises, fear and misinformation spread rapidly. Because churches are deeply embedded in the moral fabric of society, clergy and faith leaders hold immense trust. The pulpit serves as a powerful platform to disseminate accurate, science-based health information, debunk dangerous myths, combat stigma, and promote preventative behaviors. Faith leaders effectively translate complex public health directives into messages of hope, responsibility, and action.

Furthermore, churches act as vital mobilization hubs, utilizing grassroots networks to reach vulnerable and marginalized populations often missed by formal health systems. This community-level impact is amplified by institutional engagement; for decades, Christian health networks have complemented state efforts by operating clinics and hospitals in remote, underserved areas. Strengthening the collaboration between these faith-based health institutions and national governments is essential for building robust health systems.

Ultimately, governments cannot navigate global health security alone. The AACC calls on national governments to intentionally partner with faith actors as equal stakeholders in all PPPR strategies. True health encompasses physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. By fostering strong partnerships among governments, health institutions, and the Church in Africa can build resilient communities that protect their people, honor human dignity, and withstand future health crises.



Ms. Ann Kioi, the AACC Focal Person for Health and Healing. (Credit: Brian Muyunga).

Advocacy at the African Union

09

Dr. Gorden Simango



AACC Calls for Stronger Faith-Based Action **to Prevent Electoral Violence in Africa**

Jessie Kalepa

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) convened a webinar on Elections and Governance on 15 July 2026 under the theme *"No Peace, No Democracy: Faith-Based Approaches to Preventing and Addressing Electoral Violence in Africa."* The webinar brought together 45 participants to explore how faith communities can contribute to peaceful, transparent and credible elections across the continent.

Opening the discussions, Dr. Gorden Simango, Director of the AACC Liaison Office to the African Union and Advocacy, challenged churches to become the conscience of society and hold governments accountable to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). Drawing on Malawi's electoral experience, Justice Annabel Mtalimanja, Chairperson of the Malawi Electoral Commission, warned that electoral violence often begins long before polling day through misinformation, hate speech and political mistrust. She urged faith leaders to promote tolerance, counter disinformation and support peaceful dispute resolution throughout the electoral cycle.

Bishop Moses Momoh Kobba of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone emphasized the responsibility of religious leaders to engage in electoral processes without becoming partisan. Reflecting on Matthew 5:9, he encouraged churches to champion peace through civic education, interfaith dialogue, election observation and post-election reconciliation.

Mr. Sam Ogwal, IGAD Special Youth Envoy, highlighted how unemployment and the monetization of politics expose young people to political manipulation and electoral violence. He called for sustained collaboration among faith institutions, electoral management bodies and regional organizations to strengthen youth participation in democratic governance.

Concluding the webinar, Dr. Simango called for stronger partnerships with electoral institutions, youth empowerment through the All Africa Youth Network and greater transparency throughout electoral processes, reaffirming the Church's responsibility to safeguard peace, integrity and democratic accountability.



A section of participants during the webinar. (Credit: Jessie Kalepa).

AACC Election Observation Mission Commends **Peaceful Voting in Zambia and Calls for Electoral Reforms**

Jessie Kalepa

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) deployed a 14-member Election Observation Mission to Zambia from 9–14 August 2026 to observe the country's General Elections held on 13 August. Led by AACC President, Rt. Rev. Lydia Cynthia Neshangwe, the mission comprised six women and eight men drawn from AACC leadership, staff and ecumenical partners, including the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC).

The mission formed part of AACC's contribution to advancing democratic governance and credible elections in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063. Zambia's eighth general election since the restoration of multiparty democracy in 1991 took place amid concerns over electoral institutional independence, unequal media coverage, public gathering regulations and growing digital misinformation.

Ahead of election day, the delegation engaged the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC), the Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) and the Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) to strengthen coordination and understand electoral preparedness.

On election day, AACC observers visited 57 polling stations across Lusaka, Central and Southern provinces. The mission reported that 91.2% of observed polling stations opened in a calm and orderly environment, with party agents present at all stations visited. Voting proceeded peacefully, while closing and counting procedures received positive assessments across the observed stations. While commending the generally peaceful conduct of voting, the mission recommended improvements in polling station accessibility for persons with disabilities, election logistics, crowd management and dispute resolution. It also called for stronger civic and voter education, particularly targeting first-time voters.

The mission reaffirmed AACC's commitment to promoting electoral integrity, democratic accountability and peaceful political participation across Africa through independent election observation and engagement with national and continental institutions.



AACC election observation team on the election day. ((Credit: Jessie Kalepa).

AACC and IGAD Champion Greater Inclusion **of Women in Regional Peacebuilding Processes**

Mahlet Abreham

From 18th to 19th August 2026, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) brought together women peacebuilders, faith-based organisations and civil society representatives in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to strengthen women's participation and influence in peacebuilding across the IGAD region. The Regional Experience-Sharing Workshop provided an opportunity to examine how women's contributions to peace at community level could be better recognised and integrated into formal decision-making processes.



Ms Amina Farah, IGAD Gender Unit Head making her opening speech. (Credit: Mahlet Abrahem).

Addressing participants, Dr. Gorden Simango, Director of the AACC Liaison Office to the African Union, emphasised that sustainable peace required confronting structural inequalities and the continued marginalisation of women. Amina Farah, Head of IGAD's Gender Unit, acknowledged the contributions of women through faith and community networks and encouraged stronger collaboration in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Participants shared experiences from Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and Somalia, highlighting women's involvement in mediation, early warning, trauma healing, economic empowerment and reconciliation. Discussions also explored IGAD's Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development framework alongside AACC's peacebuilding initiatives.

Despite these contributions, participants identified persistent obstacles, including discriminatory gender norms, insecurity, gender-based violence, unpaid care responsibilities, inadequate funding and exclusion from decision-making structures. The workshop developed recommendations for AACC and IGAD to strengthen mentorship, psychosocial support, cross-border collaboration and institutional connections between grassroots peacebuilders and policymakers.

Particular attention was given to ensuring the inclusion of young women and women with disabilities. The gathering reinforced the need to move beyond recognising women's contributions towards ensuring their meaningful influence in peacebuilding decisions, backed by adequate resources, protection and institutional support.

AACC and Partners Amplify South Sudanese Youth **Voices in Peacebuilding and Democratic Transition**

Mahlet Abreham

From 20th to 24th July 2026, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), in collaboration with regional and national partners, undertook a mission to Juba, South Sudan, to strengthen young people's participation in peacebuilding, democratic governance and national development. Supported by the Horn of Africa Peace Project, the mission began with the National Youth Leadership, Peace and Security Forum, convened from 20th to 21st July by AACC, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the South Sudan Council of Churches and the South Sudan National Youth Union.

Held under the theme *"Youth Voices for Peace: Shaping South Sudan's Democratic Transition, Social Cohesion and Economic Future,"* the forum brought together 60 participants, including youth representatives from all ten states and three administrative areas.

Opening the gathering, Vice President H.E. Prof. Dr. James Wani Igga emphasised young people's contribution to national unity and development. Archbishop Justin Badi Arama encouraged participants to reject violence and embrace reconciliation, while IGAD representatives reaffirmed their commitment to inclusive youth participation.

Through discussions on governance, employment, reconciliation, misinformation and climate resilience, participants validated a Youth Position Paper and adopted a Forum Communiqué calling for greater political inclusion, economic opportunities, civic education and psychosocial support.

From 22nd to 24th July, the delegation presented these recommendations to South Sudan's Ministers responsible for Peacebuilding and Youth and Sports, alongside representatives of the European Union Delegation and UNDP.

The engagements secured commitments to continued collaboration and follow-up on youth priorities, including support for youth-led peacebuilding initiatives.

The mission demonstrated the importance of connecting young people's perspectives with national decision-making processes to advance peace, social cohesion and democratic participation in South Sudan.



Group photo of the honorable guests to the opening ceremony. (Credit: Mahlet Abrahem).



Photo of the meeting in session. (Credit: Mahlet Abrahem).

AACC and KAS Call for **Stronger Democratic Institutions** to Sustain Peace in Africa

Mahlet Abrahem

On 22nd September 2026, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) convened a policy dialogue in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to commemorate the International Day of Democracy and the International Day of Peace. Held under the theme *"Building Peace through Democracy: Strengthening Governance for a Resilient Africa,"* the gathering examined the relationship between democratic governance, institutional accountability and conflict prevention.

Opening the dialogue, Dr. Gorden Simango, Director of the AACC Liaison Office to the African Union, emphasised that sustainable peace depended on justice, human dignity, accountability and meaningful public participation. Anna Reismann, Country Representative of KAS's African Union Liaison Office, highlighted the importance of rebuilding public trust and strengthening democratic practices beyond electoral periods.

The first panel brought together representatives from electoral institutions, civil society and human rights organisations to examine electoral integrity, institutional independence and public confidence. Participants stressed the importance of transparent governance, continuous civic education and the inclusion of women, young people, persons with disabilities and marginalised communities in democratic processes.

A second panel explored strategies for preventing electoral violence, addressing hate speech and disinformation, and strengthening early warning mechanisms. Contributors highlighted the importance of connecting community experiences, research and regional cooperation to timely preventive action.

Discussions also addressed violence against women during elections, protection of civic space and the need to translate early warnings into practical interventions.

The dialogue identified priorities for strengthening electoral safeguards, responsible digital communication, civic participation and cooperation among governments, faith communities, civil society and research institutions. It reaffirmed the importance of democratic accountability and inclusive governance in building peaceful and resilient African societies.



Participants group photo. (Credit: Mahlet Abrahem

Peace in Africa

Rev. Dr. Lesmore G. Ezekiel



African Faith Leaders Call for Everyday **Peacebuilding on Peace Day**

Ms. Faith Wanjiru Thiong'o

Religious leaders and peace advocates from across Africa gathered for a webinar on 21st September 2026 to commemorate the International Day of Peace under the theme ***"Invest in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day."***

The webinar provided a platform to share country experiences, reflect on challenges affecting peaceful coexistence and explore how faith communities can strengthen collaboration in building lasting peace. Delivering the keynote address, Ambassador Mussie Hailu, Regional Director for Africa of the United Religions Initiative (URI), highlighted the contribution of faith actors in challenging a culture of violence and promoting a culture of peace.

Country perspectives were shared by Rev. Elsie Etaka from Cameroon, Rt. Rev. Manuel Ernesto from Mozambique, Madame Odile Bulabula from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rev. Dr. Ephraim Yakubu Simon from Nigeria. Their contributions highlighted the different realities communities face and the role of religious institutions in promoting dialogue, coexistence and peacebuilding. Discussions emphasised that sustainable peace requires collective action, with faith communities taking responsibility for challenging divisions and upholding human dignity and justice.

In his closing remarks, Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel encouraged participants to recognise their shared humanity while embracing Africa's diversity. Drawing on Ubuntu, he called for peacebuilding to become part of everyday life and education. The webinar concluded with a call for continued collaboration and practical action, affirming that investing in peace is a daily responsibility and an inheritance for future generations.



Screenshot of some of the webinar participants. (Credit: Faith Wanjiru Thiong'o).

AACC Participates in Onesimus Project **Meeting to Advance Reparatory Justice**

By Rev. Dr. Lesmore G. Ezekiel and Ms. Faith Wanjiru Thiong'o

The AACC participated in the Onesimus Project Core Group Meeting convened by the Council for World Mission (CWM) in Kingston, Jamaica, from 15th to 22nd September 2026. The meeting examined the legacies of slavery and the role of churches in advancing reparatory justice. Representing the AACC was Rev. Dr. Lesmore G. Ezekiel, Director of Peace, Ecclesial Leadership, Development, Interfaith and Theology.



Members of the Onesimus Project Core Group. (Credit: Faith Wanjiru Thiong'o).

Through daily biblical and theological reflections, participants explored four areas: the legacies of slavery, modern-day slavery, education for liberation and transformative ecumenism. Discussions emphasised truth-telling, reparations, healing of memories and resistance to human trafficking and forced labour. Participants also considered how theological education can challenge colonial legacies and promote justice.

Through the Onesimus Project, CWM seeks to advance reparatory justice, reconciliation and human dignity by connecting theological reflection with practical responses to inequalities affecting communities today.

Visits to local churches and communities affected by the transatlantic slave trade and Hurricane Melissa connected these reflections with lived experiences and provided opportunities to express solidarity.

The Core Group reviewed funding applications from member churches and submitted recommendations to CWM management for consideration. It also established two working committees to develop a framework for decolonial theological education and review funding guidelines for initiatives aligned with the project's objectives.

The meeting reaffirmed that the Church's commitment to justice requires action to address the continuing effects of historical wrongs. Through the Onesimus Project, CWM seeks to advance reparatory justice, reconciliation and human dignity by connecting theological reflection with practical responses to inequalities affecting communities today.

EPEPPA Mission to Mozambique Urges **Dialogue and Support for Displaced Communities**

Ms. Faith Wanjiru Thiong'o

An eight-person delegation of the Eminent Persons Ecumenical Program for Peace in Africa (EPEPPA) undertook a peace mission to Mozambique from 24th to 29th August 2026, strengthening collaboration among religious and political actors and exploring faith communities' contributions to sustainable peace.

The delegation engaged government representatives, United Nations officials, religious leaders and communities affected by conflict in Maputo, Nampula and Cabo Delgado.

In Maputo, an interfaith prayer meeting brought together different religious communities, including the Rastafarian community, in a shared commitment to peace. Meetings with government and UN representatives explored dialogue, non-violence and cooperation in responding to conflict.

A visit to the Peace Clubs office in Nampula highlighted cooperation between Christian and Muslim communities in promoting social cohesion and healing of memories, with particular attention to women's empowerment through peace education.

In Cabo Delgado, internally displaced people in the 25 de Setembro community shared concerns about inadequate shelter, limited food and water, and difficulties accessing land and sustainable livelihoods. They expressed a desire for opportunities to work and become self-reliant, underscoring the importance of linking humanitarian assistance with longer-term recovery.

The mission emphasised the need to avoid portraying the conflict as a Christian–Muslim confrontation and affirmed interfaith cooperation as essential to lasting peace. Engagements also supported efforts to strengthen a national network of religious actors for early warning and response.

The mission called for practical partnerships that enable affected communities to rebuild their lives and live together in dignity.



The Delegation at the UNDP offices in Cabo Delgado. (Credit: Faith Wanjiru Thiong'o).

AACC Participates in International Conference **on Christian Zionism and Justice**

Rev. Dr. Lesmore G. Ezekiel and Faith Wanjiru Thiong'o



The Delegation at the UNDP offices in Cabo Delgado. (Credit: Faith Wanjiru Thiong'o).

The AACC participated in the international conference *"Christianity without Zionism: Mapping and Combating Christian Zionism in Asia and Africa,"* held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 1st to 7th September 2026.

Rev. Dr. Lesmore G. Ezekiel, Director of Peace, Ecclesial Leadership, Development, Interfaith and Theology, represented the AACC at the gathering, convened by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Dar Al-Kalima University in Bethlehem, Palestine. The conference brought together 66 scholars, theologians, church leaders, students and activists from 34 countries. Participants examined how Christian Zionism influences biblical interpretation, church life and political realities, particularly in the Global South.

Discussions focused on the responsibility of churches to challenge interpretations of Scripture used to justify injustice. Participants explored theological perspectives grounded in justice, solidarity and human dignity, emphasising the role of churches and theological institutions in equipping Christians to assess biblical interpretations critically.

The gathering also called for meaningful solidarity with Palestinian Christians, including pilgrimages that create opportunities to encounter their communities and understand their lived experiences. Participants considered ways to strengthen contextual biblical interpretation, theological education and cooperation among churches responding to injustice.

For the AACC, proposed follow-up actions included a symposium on Christianity and Zionism in Africa, to be organised with partner institutions to deepen engagement among African churches. The conference concluded with a communiqué affirming the importance of theological reflection that advances justice, peace and the fullness of life for all.



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