

Originators: ACT Assembly coordination team (FECCLAHA, MEDRA, CCS)

Endorsing Forums: Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi

ACT Alliance public statement on Africa

The social, environmental, political and economic trends that have affected the world over the past few years have also affected Africa. Africa continues to experience significant challenges related to poverty, increasing inequality, climate change and environmental degradation, gender based violence and discrimination, poor governance, violent conflicts, displacement of its people and the negative impacts of economic globalization.

Africa's rich resources continue to be plundered through a combination of corrupt national and international systems, illicit financial flows, aggressive extraction of natural resources and a continuous exposure of African communities and people to poverty and volatile political situations.

We celebrate the several positive trends on the continent of Africa, including economic growth, vibrant youth engagement, leadership in mobile technology and innovation, women's political participation in countries such as Rwanda and Ethiopia, and many others.

We are concerned that the inadequate response and inaction of African governments and the international community on issues that are important for Africa and its people, including peace and security, climate change, humanitarian response, migration, and sustainable and transformative development are leading to or otherwise contributing to the continued vulnerability of Africa.

We are further concerned by the increasingly shrinking political and operational space for civil society organizations, including churches and other faith based organizations, in several African countries where legislations are in place to hinder registration, funding, mobilization and advocacy of civil society organizations.

We recognize and affirm that the future and wellbeing of Africa is in the hands of her people and that churches, the ecumenical family and other faith actors have a particularly important role to support and contribute to the vision for a prosperous, peaceful and sustainable Africa. We recognize the important role of international development assistance and cooperation in Africa and affirm the Istanbul principles of development effectiveness and the 2030 Agenda clarion call to leave no one behind.

We affirm the prophetic role of churches and the ecumenical family in Africa that has continued to promote peace, unity, justice and sustainable development. We affirm the positive work done by members of ACT Alliance and churches to respond to the pressing humanitarian needs on the continent and to foster gender justice, accountable governance, climate justice and economic justice in Africa. We particularly affirm and acknowledge the commitment and consistency in support of forgotten and protracted crises.

We call on churches and the ecumenical family to contribute to the sharing of positive stories of agency, resilience and sustainability in Africa as opposed to the simplistic stories of chaos, violent conflicts and poverty, which often fail to show the whole truth of progress.

We urge African governments to double their efforts to fight corruption and to ensure that governance and leadership is done in a way that is accountable to the citizens. We further call on governments to protect the

human rights of all citizens and to ensure that civil society organizations, including churches and faith based actors have the necessary space to operate.

We call on development partners and the international community to invest in building sustainable and transformative development, including by the provision of support for the implementation of the SDGs, Paris Agreement and other frameworks that are important for the resilience of African communities. We particularly emphasize the importance of Development Effectiveness and call for increased in development aid to fragile and LDC states in Africa.