

**DETAILED REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT WITH AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PEACE AND SECURITY (PAPS) AND OTHER
CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS ON PEACE RELATED ISSUES IN AFRICA**

1. Executive Summary

With an objective to achieve constructive and life-flourishing engagements with the PAPS team and other stakeholders to contribute to efforts that prevent escalation of violent and armed conflicts and deepen a culture of peace and peaceful coexistence in the continent of Africa, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), together with World Council of Churches (WCC), ACT Alliance, Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) and United Religions Initiative (URI) – Africa, engaged in raising the voices of the faith communities in Africa to speak up, speak out and speak against actions that undermine the realization of their vision and the aspirations of the people of Africa to enjoy life in tranquility as intended by the Creator of everything for human satisfaction not human greed. These engagements that took place in Addis from 23-24 September 2025 happened during the season when the world was commemorating the “International Day of Peace”. This year’s theme, “Act Now for a Peaceful World” was timely and called for action against inaction when peace is being challenged. The engagements amplified and demonstrated the unwavering focus on the agenda of a continent that is not defined by wars and violent conflicts, but characterized by peace and coexistence where its people enjoy shared prosperity rooted in the values of the teaching of the Golden Rule which says “Treat others the way you want to be treated” and the spirit of Ubuntu which means “I am because we are”. Each day began with prayer, creating space for spiritual grounding and theological framing of the issues. Each day ended with a debrief and to crown the end of the engagements, the delegation discussed a way forward, coming up with points of action, a commitment to the pursuit of promoting a culture of peace in Africa. On each day, the engagement concluded with a session of debriefing and at the end, there was a session to discuss a way forward and points of action. The team which arrived in Addis on 22 September 2025 was accommodated at Best Western Primary Dynasty Addis Ababa Hotel.

This report captures the key highlights and reflections from the engagements. Section One outlines the background, objectives, outcomes, and methodology; Section Two presents a narrative summary of the engagements, key takeaways, insights from debriefing sessions, and key points for action.

Section 1:

2. Background

In spite of the tireless efforts of the AUC to foster peace and resolve conflict in 2025, Africa has continued to experience wars, violent conflicts, and needless attacks because a number of countries have become epicenters of violent unrest and insurrections. Hundreds of thousands have been brutally killed, and millions of innocent civilians have been socially displaced and forced to accept the social identity of “refugees” for no fault of theirs. It is evident that the continent is plagued by multiple crises including political

instability and armed conflict. Despite the impressive aspirations envisaged in the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, aspiration 4 states, “a peaceful and Secure Africa”. This aspiration aims to achieve a continent free from conflict and violence, where peace and stability are maintained through various mechanisms. It envisions a future where dialogue-centered conflict prevention and resolution are prioritized, and a culture of peace is nurtured among African children through different initiatives. Sadly, Africa continues to be shrouded in political violence, a poor electoral system, incessant military interventions, ethnic segregation, and rising political cleavages resulting from a multi-party system. It is also marked by bad political culture, corruption, greed, and sit-back leadership, dictatorship, foreign influence, religious adversity, administrative mediocrity, secession threat resulting from marginalization of minority, to name a few. All these are caused by poor and bad governance systems. These clearly pose serious challenges to the stability and wellbeing of the people of the continent and the environment as whole.

Rationale In our mission commitment of the ecumenical and interfaith organizations, we remain intentional in contributing towards the realization of the various aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063 anchored on the vision of “*an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa*”. The AACC, through its Eminent Persons Ecumenical Program for Peace in Africa, (EPEPPA) continues to deepen its work for sustainable peace in the continent of Africa. EPEPPA is a special mechanism that focuses on our peace work, employing frameworks to demonstrate active solidarity with specific countries experiencing situations that affect peace and stability. This strategic initiative, among other expectations, is meant to deepen the culture of peace, justice, equality, dignity, and socio-political stability in the continent of Africa. It is both a response to early warning signs/signals on possible eruptions of violence and a mediation mechanism where peace and stability are evidently challenged. This remains a potent approach in our ecumenical witness for peace and stability in Africa.

2.1. Objectives of the engagement

Overall objective: Achieve constructive and life-flourishing engagements with the PAPS team and other stakeholders that will contribute to efforts that prevent escalation of violent and armed conflicts and deepen the culture of peace and peaceful coexistence in the continent of Africa.

2.2. Specific objectives:

- To discuss critical issues in hotspot countries (DRC, Sudan, South Sudan, and Cameroon), relevant to religious actors, and explore ways for faith leaders to participate in actions towards resolving the conflicts and entrenching the culture of peace in the affected countries.
- To engage with the AUC Political Affairs, Peace and Security and other relevant missions and institutions on the various initiatives that will require the accompaniment of religious / faith leaders.
- To strengthen the prophetic voice of the faith communities in Africa as agencies for social transformation for the good of all.

- To express life-giving ecumenical solidarity with the faith communities in Ethiopia.
- To commemorate the 2025 International Day of Peace

2.3. Expected outcomes

- ✓ Concerns about a peaceful and secure Africa in general and issues in hotspot countries in particular (DRC, Sudan, South Sudan, Cameroon) are presented, discussed, and possible solutions explored.
- ✓ AU-PAPS and EPEPPA committed to further support the various peace processes in hotspots countries.
- ✓ Possible areas of cooperation between faith leaders and the AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department identified.
- ✓ Received by the leadership of AUC-PAPS and other relevant missions and institutions and also explored and agreed on nature of accompaniment actions.
- ✓ Issued an ecumenical message of peace in commemoration of International Day of Peace.

3. Methodology

- Preliminary interactive sessions between the EPEPPA delegation and senior church leaders from DRC, Sudan, South Sudan, Mozambique, and Cameroon to provide an update on the issues and together prepare advocacy messages accordingly.
- Advocacy dialogue with the AUC-PAPS on the critical issues identified for peacebuilding in countries of reference.
- Engagement with the office of the Panel of the Wise and CEWS - APSA
- Courtesy calls to the Embassies of the four countries in Addis Ababa with advocacy messages to be presented to the respective Ambassadors.

4. Members of the Delegation

The members of the delegation were:

- 1) Rt. Rev. Arnold Temple, Sierra Leone
- 2) Madame LoeRose Mbise , Tanzania
- 3) Bishop Samuel Kayinamura , Rwanda
- 4) Bishop John Matiza, Zimbabwe
- 5) Rev. Sussie Ndanyi, Kenya
- 6) Rev. Lesmore G Ezekiel, AACC
- 7) Ms. Elizabeth Kiisingha Zimba , Act Alliance

- 8) Ms. Jeannette Uwizeye, FECCLAHA
- 9) Rev. Dr. Yusuf Ibrahim Wushishi, WCC
- 10) Mr. Peter Prove, WCC
- 11) Amb. Mussie Hailu, URI-Ethiopia
- 12) Rev. Charles Berahino, Burundi
- 13) Ms. Faith Thiong'o, AACC
- 14) Ms. Genet Eshete, AACC Addis Office

AACC Country Level Church Leaders and Representatives:

DRC: Rev. Dr. Isaac Kalonji & Odile Bulabula

Cameroon: Madame Sally Mboumien

Sudan: Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo

South Sudan: Bishop Enoch Tombe & Gladys Mananyu

SECTION 2:

5. Narrative Summary of each day's engagements.

Day 1: 23 September 2025

The opening session featured remarks from Rev. Dr. Lesmore Gibson Ezekiel, AACC Director for Peace, Development, Ecclesial Leadership, Theology and Interfaith Relations. He said the initiative led by the AACC was a collaboration between the AACC, FECCLAHA, WCC, Act Alliance, and URI; organizations that have good working relationships on matters regarding advocacy for life in its fullness. He emphasized on the Church's prophetic responsibility in confronting injustice and promoting peace. He emphasized that the delegation had come to Addis to listen, and bring solidarity and good will messages, and to be told what to pray for and about, which would inform our close out statements. Remarks also came from Ambassador Mussie from URI who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Interreligious Council of Ethiopia. He sent out a plea for an Africa where people could fly freely without need for a visa. Rev. Dr. Isaac Kalonji said the opening prayer. He prayed to God to lead the sessions for fruitful engagements. Time was given to the respective country representatives to update the audience on what they felt was key, and what prayers and advocacy should be directed towards and focused on:

Sudan: War must stop

DRC: War must stop

Need for dialogue where civil society organizations are involved

Cameroon: we must address the shrinking space, the issue of freedom of expression on the eve of general elections

South Sudan: Need for dialogue at the grassroots level

Mozambique:

- Need to question the presence and role of the Rwanda forces
- What is the AU and SADC doing for Mozambique?
- What can the Eminent Persons do to accompany the process, and how can they collaborate with the AU?

1st Day engagements

Visit to the Ethiopian Gospel Believers Council

On the first day, the engagements began with the Ethiopian Gospel Believers Council, which has a membership of more than 4,000 churches representing 35 million people. They work together and share resources for a heavenly mission. The delegation was welcomed by the Vice President along with the leadership of the Council. In his welcome note, the Vice President, referencing Micah 6:8 and Psalm 89:14, challenged the audience. He said that the Gospel from Jerusalem came to Ethiopia and spread to other countries, but unfortunately, he noted, churches have not done their homework. Churches continue to preach and practice the gospel of politics instead of the gospel of forgiveness, mercy, and love. He called on the audience to speak against all forms of injustice and to use the resources of love, justice, and mercy as the foundations of our relationships. We must be people of righteousness in our families and churches; it is the only way we will be able to challenge and inspire others around us to do good.

After the delegation introduced itself, Bishop Matiza led the discussions. He echoed the sentiments of the Vice President and said that the Clergy must move from the pulpit, from preaching and praying to intentional actions, actions that free God's people to enjoy life in its fullness. The members of the delegation expressed appreciation and thanked God for the birth of the council and the message from the Vice President. They sought more clarity on how the Council is engaging with the past and current socio-political context of Ethiopia. In their response, the leadership of the Council said that they try to speak out for the voiceless in their different constituencies and most of the time through the leadership in the local congregations which they are empowering to do so. They also try to mentor the young generations as much as possible in their continued efforts to act prophetically. They maximize on the Biblical resources to mark the church's presence and impact the communities. To conclude, a prayer was said by Bishop Samuel Kayinamura.



Members of the delegation pausing with the leadership and staff of Ethiopian Gospel Believers Council, Photo taken in Addis on 23 September 2025

Visit to the Interreligious Council of Ethiopia (IRC)

The team was warmly received at the IRC by its General Secretary and staff. To start, Elizabeth Zimba of Act-Alliance prayed and explained that the visit was a solidarity visit, where the team came to listen and collaborate toward sustainable peace. We recognize how vital peace and stability are for Ethiopia and the entire African continent. After introductions by both the delegation and IRC staff, Ambassador Musie, who is also a senior advisor to IRC, led the discussion. He emphasized the crucial role of IRC in working toward and maintaining peace and stability in Ethiopia. He stated that the delegation aims to promote peace, justice, healing, and advocate for peace in African countries within the African Union structures. He reminded everyone that faith actors must be fully involved if Africa wants to achieve Agenda 2063. Next, IRC General Secretary Kesis Tagay Tadele warmly welcomed the delegation. He stated that IRC was founded in 2010 with the goal of promoting sustainable peace and development in Ethiopian communities, involving five religious groups working together. The IRC has regional offices and chapters implementing various programs to reach these goals. A brief presentation outlined the different programs, addressing challenges such as budget and resource limitations, instability, and unsupportive policies. Adding to the presentation, Ambassador Musie elaborated on several projects IRC is implementing to promote peace in Ethiopia's

different regions, especially in the troubled North. He also mentioned that IRC is about to launch an International Center of Excellence to promote freedom of belief internationally. During the discussion, delegation members asked several questions about working with non-Abrahamic religions and Ethiopia's government's view of IRC's efforts. Positive responses were given to all questions, reaffirming IRC's strong and friendly relationship with Ethiopia's government. Prayers were offered to encourage IRC, and finally, a guided tour was conducted, including the building serving as the General Secretariat, the regional offices, and the donation from the Ethiopian government.



Photo of the delegation with staff of the Interreligious Council of Ethiopia. Addis, 23 September 2025

Engagement at the AU: Meeting with the Head of the mediation and dialogue division at the AUC Peace and Security Department

In the afternoon of the first day, the delegation was received by Dr. Akok Madut, Head of the Mediation and Dialogue Division at the AUC Peace and Security Department, along with his staff. After introductions by both parties, Bishop Arnold Temple led the discussions and said the delegation had come to Addis as humble servants of God, to listen and take the stories back to their constituencies. He said churches in Africa fully appreciate the work being done by the African Union, especially efforts in search for justice, peace, and security. He elaborated on the three missions of the church (priestly, pastoral, prophetic) and expressed concern on the ongoing issues of conflict, justice and security that still prevail in most African countries. He gave examples of Sudan, South Sudan, DRC,

Cameroon, Mozambique, to name a few. The church is deeply worried that despite there being the slogan “Silencing the guns”, being there, it is not a reality. Using the example of prophet Nathan, Bishop Temple noted that we all have a responsibility. As an expression of solidarity, we are all called to work together and delve deeply into the issues. He expressed the willingness of faith communities to leverage on the themes and holy scriptures about reconciliation, mercy, and forgiveness and act together for peace, justice, life, and the dignity of the human person in Africa.

In his response, Dr. Madut appreciated the delegation's visit and stated that even if Africa has a vision, it will not be achieved without collaboration. He noted that even though the African Union has the best mechanisms and a dedicated staff who work day and night, there are still big challenges, including:

- Elections that have become a source of conflict
- Very difficult post-election diplomacy
- Lack of political will: AU/AGA-APSA mechanisms and frameworks are relevant but not effective due to a lack of political will
- The AU lacks influence and leverage. The AU is an organization formed by the states. Those member states are the bosses of the AU. The biggest challenge is the lack of political will by the owners of the Union (African Presidents). How does the AU go about it as long as it does not have the Veto power to impose as does the United Nations (UN)?

He said the following could be used as an attempt to solve:

- Peer-to-peer engagements
- To use the APRM (African Peer Review Meetings) to pull the political will
- Use the church as a channel for dialogue: Most presidents go to churches and Mosques: Religious leaders can take the opportunities to address them at the pulpit or create separate time to engage them in special forums/sessions
- AACC to plan a meeting with President William Ruto of Kenya, who is championing the idea of reforming the African Union.

Bishop Temple appreciated the response and called for feedback from the delegation. Several inputs came from the delegation and called for mediation that addresses the root causes for dialogue to bear fruit. The delegation requested the AU to try a peer-to-peer engagement for Cameroon to avoid bloodshed before, during, and after the elections scheduled in October 2025. The head of the mediation and dialogue unit also invited the civil society in Cameroon to send a proposal on what they think can be done. For DRC, the delegation requested the AU to support all efforts for an inclusive dialogue of life. For Mozambique specifically, the AU appealed for a joint EPEPPA-SADC Council of Elders and for more engagement with regional blocs (EAC, SADC, ECOWAS, IGAD, and ICGLR) by faith leaders in general.



Photo of the delegation with Dr Madut and his staff, Addis Ababa-23 September 2025

Meeting with CIDO (Citizens and Diaspora Organization)

Led by Pastor Suzie from the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), the delegation was received by Ms Hazel, a senior staff member of CIDO. The session started with introductions of all participants. On behalf of the delegation, Pastor Suzie conveyed a solidarity message and expressed appreciation for the work done by CIDO. She said the delegation had come to listen to the best practices but also to the requests of CIDO for an integrated and peaceful Africa so that together, the work and voice can be amplified.

In her response, Ms Hazel appreciated the collaboration between CIDO and the AACC. She elaborated on two main initiatives that CIDO has been running:

- The iDove
- The Interfaith Dialogue

She also noted that in many countries, Interreligious Councils have been established and have maintained very good working relationships with AU member states. There is an Interfaith Steering Committee up of 12 members, including a youth and a women's representative. CIDO is currently preparing for the 2025 meeting, with the main theme focusing on reparations, which is also the AU's 2025 theme. Ms Hazel said CIDO's programs are crosscutting. Hence, CIDO works with all AU departments, and in that respect, issues

related to peace, humanitarian and social affairs, and migration sometimes come to its attention. The delegation requested CIDO to establish a mechanism of accountability where the people on the steering committee representing their regions will report back to their constituencies. The delegation also requested more visibility for Faith Leaders, separating them from other civil society organizations in CIDO programs and processes. It was noted that the role played by faith leaders is very important, as demonstrated when, back in 2013, the AACC organized a consultative meeting to mobilize on the Agenda 2063. It is worth mentioning that, in all engagements on the day, Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel, AACC Director, shared about the Eminent Persons Ecumenical program for Peace in Africa and sought synergies, collaboration, and joint initiatives with other high-level structures to advocate for peace in Africa.



Photo of the delegation with CIDO staff, AU in Addis- 23 September 2025, photo by Charles Berahino



**Women part of the delegation in Addis,
Photo taken on 23 September 2025 at the AU**

Later in the day, back in the hotel, the team met to debrief on day one, which in general was said to have been busy and successful.

Some of the key takeaways from the day were:

- ✓ Let's take the issues raised by Dr Madut and push from the church side
- ✓ It showed some of the laments we have and gaps we see as a church are also shared by AU staff
- ✓ The proposed reform is expected to bring new insights. It is a noble idea to meet President Ruto to tell him some of those things the church thinks are important to reform and help the AU move
- ✓ There is a need for decentralized advocacy with the Regional blocs as proposed by the staff of the AU
- ✓ Good practices learnt at the IRC Ethiopia must be publicized. Faith-based organizations/church leaders can be well considered as they have legitimacy and work in the grassroots
- ✓ Have a follow-up meeting with the mediation and dialogue unit of the AU to concretely plan on how to create common agendas
- ✓ About CIDO, there is a need to have contacts with Steering Committee representatives from the different regions

- ✓ The independence of IRCs is key as institutions created by governments
- ✓ Plan with ACRL to bring all existing IRCs together for experience sharing and learning purposes
- ✓ As we were challenged, we were reminded of our internal transformation to revitalize the mission of the church.
- ✓ Plan meetings with the Panel of the Wise and the APRM in South Africa to strengthen collaboration and push for review and reforms
- ✓ What can we do as church bodies, what policies can we develop, what kind of MoUs can we sign with regional blocks to influence change? A civil society organization in Cameroon to send a proposal to the Head of the Mediation and Dialogue Division on what they think can be done on election matters
- ✓ The spirit of ecumenism must be strengthened to allow the working together for peace

2nd Day: 24 September 2025

Meeting with His Excellency, the Minister of Peace of Ethiopia

As on the first day, the second day started with a prayer led by Rev. Dr. Isaac Kalonji of DRC. Thereafter, Rev. Lesmore led the delegation in planning the day, which began with a visit by the Ethiopian Minister of Peace and his Director General of the Unit. Rev. Lesmore led the introductions on all sides. After the introductions, on behalf of the delegation, Madame LeRose Mbise welcomed His Excellency and his team. She thanked the government of Ethiopia for creating a Ministry of Peace, which is unique in Africa. She emphasized the need to involve faith leaders in all country processes leading to sustainable peace and development. She requested him to use his good office to request the Government of Ethiopia, where the offices of the African Union are located, and where the African political capital is, to open its borders with a visa-free policy to allow free movement of people.

In his response, His Excellency the Minister gave a warm welcome to the delegation from Addis. He said the delegation has come at a time when Ethiopia is rapidly developing, after having inaugurated the biggest dam in Africa, which serves the region. It embeds a new, prosperous, and integrated Africa. He said Ethiopia was the first African Country to adopt Christianity, which later spread to other areas of Africa. He noted that the ministry is working hard to help all structures in Ethiopia to be governed peacefully, following policies, guidelines, constitutions, and in-laws. They use Ethiopian values, identity, and principles to install a culture of peace. The same is also applied to faith-based institutions. The same is also applied to faith-based institutions, including churches. Some of the things they are working on include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting inclusiveness at all levels, promoting tolerance and coexistence
- Introducing Peace Education in the school curriculum
- Peace commission for dialogue to handle all political and community tensions



Photo of the delegation together with the Minister for Peace, government of Ethiopia
Addis, 24 September 2025 at Best Western Primary Dynasty Hotel

Meeting with AUC-AGA-APSA

After a warm welcome by Madame Macta, Senior Advisor for Democracy, representing the head of the department. Ambassador Sala, who was on duty in New York, USA, the other side. Bishop Emeritus Enock Tombe led the team into the engagement. He appreciated the warm welcome into the boardroom of the AU department and into the good environment of the African Union premises. He wished the beauties of the buildings and environment translate into peace and development in the different countries of Africa. He noted, however, that the results of the efforts of the AU are not apparent on the ground in countries like DRC, Sudan, South Sudan, Cameroon, Mozambique, to name a few. He concluded by saying that the delegation had come to listen to them to know the best ways faith leaders can work together with the AU structures to achieve the intended prosperous, peaceful, and integrated Africa.

In her response, Madame Macta again thanked the delegation. She requested the staff of the Directorate to give more light and information on the work of the Directorate. Two presentations were made: the first highlighted the different units, including the Early Warning and Early Response System (CEWS). The presentation elaborated on how it functions using its different key tools and platforms, such as the Panel of the Wise, the Africa Reporter, and the Africa Media Monitor, among others.

The CEWS has a system that collects data, which is analyzed and submitted to decision makers to inform their decisions. The products of CEWS , for example SMS alerts, flash reports, daily alerts, daily reports, SMS alerts, flash reports, daily alerts, daily reports, and weekly reports. The Africa Reporter, for example, engages civil society organizations to feed data into the system. These CSOs include faith-based organizations. The staff of AGA-APSA commanded organizations like WANEP, which is already inputting in the system, and encouraged the staff of Faith Organizations like the AACC and others to do so. At the same time, they requested these organizations to continue publicizing their articles and reports, as these are captured by the AU system and can be used as data over time.

The following emerged as CEWS good practices:

- Work with CSOs and other think tanks
- Inclusion of local observers and community mechanisms

The second presentation was about African Governance Architecture and African Peace and Security Architecture (AGA-APSA). The APSA is a mechanism for the prevention, management, and resolution of crises and conflicts in Africa. The objective of the AGA-APSA is to harmonize the AU's shared values. The organogram and the process of how decisions are taken were presented.

The members of the delegation received the insights with appreciation and reacted to them with a lot of questions. Some of the questions were related to:

- 1) How timely are the recommendations from the CEWS taken into consideration, and decisions are taken by the AU peace and security commission?
- 2) The effectiveness of the tools when it comes to verifying information
- 3) How can the AU offices in different countries collaborate with CSOs to collect and submit information in a timely manner?
- 4) How can the 56 AACC Eminent persons collaborate and work together with the AU structures to contribute to peace in Africa?
- 5) Where does the AU, in general, and the Peace and Security Council of the AU get funding from?

Positive responses were given to all the questions by the AGA-APSA staff.

For organizations to contribute meaningfully, the AACC was requested to Reporter and participate in the Africa Reporter Training. The AACC will officially send a request to the Peace and Security Commissioner asking to be part of the Early Warning, Early Response Training.



Group photo of the delegation together with staff of AU/AGA-APSA



Group photo of the delegation together with staff of AU/AGA-APSA

Meetings with Ambassadors of Cameroon and South Sudan

In the afternoon of 24 September 2025, the delegation split into two groups and paid courtesy calls to the Ambassadors of Cameroon and South Sudan in Addis. Both delegations were well received. For Cameroon, the delegation led by Bishop Samuel Kayinamura was received by His Excellency, the Ambassador himself. Regarding the Francophone-Anglophone crisis, the Ambassador said they are willing to change things and encouraged Faith Leaders to help by engaging the Separatists. He emphasised the need for conflict transformation where churches and other faith-based organizations must contribute significantly.

The South Sudan delegation, led by Pastor Suzie, was received by the Acting Ambassador, Deputy Chief of Mission Boutros Thok Deng, and Deputy Chief of Mission Boutros Thok Deng. He thanked the delegation for their timely visit. He elaborated on a number of diplomatic engagements his office is doing in different institutions to give information on what is going on back home.

He pleaded with the delegation and the international community not to leave South Sudan alone. He asked for prayers and other forms of support so that South Sudan can break free from the repetitive cycle of violence. The delegation reaffirmed its ongoing support and commitment to the churches, citizens, and government of South Sudan.



Photo of one part of the delegation together with HE, the Ambassador of Cameroon to Ethiopia and his staff



Photo of some members of the delegation together with HE, the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of South Sudan to Addis, and the AU

Later in the evening, the team met to debrief on day two. Some of the key takeaways from the day are as follows:

- We had a good time with the Minister of Peace. He was very open and spoke from his heart
- There is a need to have the IRC Ethiopia engage with the Minister of Peace to keep an eye on the bill/framework regarding the autonomy of religious bodies in preparation
- Having a Ministry of Peace in a country, introducing Peace Education in school curriculum, building trust between policy makers and faith-based organizations are best practices
- The presentations at the AU helped us to understand how the Peace and Security Council functions
- There is a need to separate Churches from other civil society organizations
- Churches must influence decision makers to have all mechanisms at the AU work
- If we want to bring policy briefs at the AU level, we must actively work with ECOSOC and CIDO
- Engage William at ECOSOC in Zambia to send a Note Verbale to country chapters announcing the EPEPPA and the need for collaboration and joint missions

- Enhance constructive working relationships with the AU and the regional blocks without compromising the mandate of faith communities
- AACC to collaborate with other bodies like WCC and the AU and escalate the Mechanism of “Blood Minerals” from ICGLR to other regional blocks

6. Way forward and points of action

The following are key points to consider in the next 12 months as a movement of God’s people in this troubled Africa:

- 1) Organize prayers in the different targeted countries in Africa
- 2) Run a joint campaign for States to come up with policies on hate speech
- 3) Accompany and lobby to fast-track the reform process of the African Union
- 4) Assign Regional Ecumenical Organizations to engage with the Regional blocks on issues of focus
- 5) Explore means for a training on Early Warning, Early Response (CEWS)
- 6) Lobby for constructive dialogue for life, accompany churches for community dialogue
- 7) Accompany election processes and call for peace before, during, and after the elections
- 8) Humanitarian Response to safeguard human dignity

Some other photos:



