

THE ALL AFRICA YOUTH CONGRESS 2025

Theme: Africa: My Home. My future.

Concept Note

1.0 Background

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) is a continental ecumenical body that accounts for over 200 million Christians across Africa. It is the largest association of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, and Indigenous churches in Africa, with 213 members comprising Churches, National Councils of Churches (NCCs), Theological and lay training institutions, and other Christian organizations in 43 African countries. The AACC recognizes that African youth are significant stakeholders in the continent's welfare, growth, and development. This is because the youth constitute most of Africa's population, with young people below thirty years comprising 70% of the continent's population. Additionally, they possess various and unique gifts, talents, skills, resources, and abilities that they can offer and utilize to achieve any agenda they set their hearts and minds to. This confidence in the African youth's potential to drive and achieve transformative change is based on the biblical evidence of significant ways through which God worked through and with young people like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who defied ungodliness (Daniel 3), among many others.

It is for this reason that the AACC initiated the All Africa Youth Congress (AAYC) to inspire the African youth to be Patriotic, Pan-African, and transformative Christians who invest in the development and transformation of Africa into a Prosperous, peaceful, and secure continent they desire to live in as a home and for the prosperity of their future generations. With the theme, 'Africa. My Home. My Future.' the AAYC not only stirs the African young people's love and celebration of their African heritage but also impresses upon them the responsibility of driving the change they want to see in Africa: the only place they have as a home and where their future is guaranteed.

The Inaugural AAYC took place in Accra, Ghana 2022, and brought together one thousand African youth in 43 African Countries and the diaspora. Among the key outcomes of this congress is the AAYC Ghana declaration, an expression of the youth commitment to spearhead Africa's sustainable development. Since this congress, youth in various countries have engaged in multiple ecumenical and interfaith endeavors accelerating the realization of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the seven aspirations of the Agenda 2063 in Africa. To strengthen the AAYC, consolidate its gains, and expand its impact, AACC is organizing the second AAYC to occur during the 2025 African Youth Month from 1st to 4th November 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

2.0 Rationale

Over the years, there has been an increasing trend of many African youth striving to leave the continent for other parts of the world, claiming they are seeking greener pastures: employment and study opportunities, social services, and security, among others. This reality is partly caused by various factors, such as the unjust global, continental, regional, and national socio-economic systems that operate at the disadvantage of the majority of the African people. The other key factor is the biased way through which many aspects of Africa's history have been written, and its reality is often portrayed in ways that paint a negative image of the continent rather than depicting the truth about its development and leadership in the global arena.

Despite the biased narratives, Africa's development 50 years after colonialism is phenomenal: There have been significant strategic investments in transport, energy, water, and information and Communication Technology. Africa has achieved a steady expansion of access to electricity with current coverage of approximately 44% of its total surface area, rising intra-African exports, and rapid development of modern cities. Furthermore, Africa's numerous blessings in the form of its natural resources and biodiversity, its expanding industrial cover, and scientific discoveries offer multiple opportunities for trade, entrepreneurship, and employment.

There is a great need to accompany young African people to maximize the opportunities for socio-economic development available in Africa and develop the continent into the prosperous and secure place they want it to be, as expressed in the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

To achieve this, young people must invest in changing the narrative about Africa in ways that erase the false negative picture of the continent to the rest of the world and replace it with the truth about its beauty, growth, and development opportunities for its people. Accompanied by efforts transforming corrupt and unjust social, economic, and political systems and structures, this will accelerate the continent's achievement of its holistic and sustainable development. In addition, such efforts will not only affirm the young people's confidence and potential to grow, develop, and flourish in Africa but also promote the dignity and prestige of African people.

With the theme Africa: My Home. My Future., the AAYC mobilizes and empowers African youth to shift their resources from migrating out of Africa to building the continent into a prosperous, peaceful, and secure place they want it to be, live in, and desire to leave behind for their descendants to live in and flourish. The Congress is crucial in building confidence, competency, solidarity, and unity of purpose among young African people for Africa's sustainable development.

Since the inaugural All Africa Youth Congress held in Accra, Ghana, in 2022, the campaign has become a revolutionary force emitting impulses of change that compel youth in AACC member churches to own and work for the realization of the 17 SDGS and the AU Agenda 2063, address the socio-economic injustices that negatively affect Africa's development and transform Africa's narrative. Building on the momentum for Africa's transformation, the inaugural congress, built among young African people, and the second AAYC will take place in November 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

3.0 Main Objective of the AAYC

To inspire and empower African youth to positively transform Africa's narrative and champion the continent's sustainable development

4.0 Specific Objectives

1. To showcase and celebrate our African heritage, cultures, innovations, and development.
2. To Foster the spirit of Pan-Africanism and patriotism among the African youth
3. To promote ecumenical solidarity among African youth in transforming Africa's Narrative.
4. To strengthen Africa's ecumenical youth networks for mutual accompaniment and effective collaborations in transforming injustices and driving Africa's holistic development

5.0 Expected outcomes

1. African heritage, cultures, innovations, and development showcased and celebrated
2. Youth empowered to promote Pan-Africanism and African patriotism
3. Ecumenical solidarity among African youth in transforming Africa's Narrative promoted
4. Africa's ecumenical youth networks strengthened for mutual accompaniment and effective collaborations in transforming injustices and driving Africa's holistic development

6.0 Venue

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

7.0 Dates

1st- 4th November 2025 (Arrivals on 31st October and departures on 5th November)

8.0 Target participants

500 youth from AACC member churches, the Diaspora, AACC partners, and other youth leaders

9.0 Theme, subthemes, and areas of focus

The theme of the congress is Africa: My Home. My Future.

The congress will feature activities on four major sub-themes, each with four focus areas, as shown in the table below.

No.	Subtheme	Areas of focus
1	Pan-Africanism and Active Citizenship	1. Decolonization 2. Mission and Evangelism 3. AU Agenda 2063 and the SDGs 4. Youth-led Entrepreneurship and innovation
2	Human Dignity and Socioeconomic Justice	1. Migration, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery 2. Sexual and reproductive health and Rights 3. Gender Justice 4. Artificial Intelligence
3	Peace and Security	1. Tribalism, ethnicity and racism 2. Violent Extremism 3. Justice, reconciliation, and social cohesion 4. Unconstitutional Change of Governments and the Silencing the Guns Initiative
4	Ethical leadership and Eco-Stewardship	1. Ethical and Transformative Leadership 2. Climate Justice 3. Creation care Responsible stewardship 4. Tax and Economic Justice

10.0 Participation

Participation in the congress is by application and invitation. Interested Participants will be required to express interest in participating in the congress by completing an online form posted on the AACC website and spread widely from 7th November 2024 till 7th April 2024. The applications will be reviewed, and selected participants invited to register for the congress by paying a registration fee of 100 USD for international participants and USD 200 for local participants no later than 30th July 2025. All registered participants must confirm participation by sharing their booked flight tickets by 15th September 2025.

AACC Partners, members, and other organizations can participate in the congress by running side events such as exhibitions and workshops. A maximum of 10 side events will be held daily for three days.

11.0 Cost of Participation

All participants are responsible for their travel costs from their departure to Ethiopia. (The air tickets, Visa costs, and airport transfers with country of origin). Churches, civil society organizations, government entities, and development agencies are requested to support the young people within their spheres of influence with financial and any other support needed to participate in the congress. While registering, one will be required to indicate if they are self-sponsored or if the organization is sponsoring them for this Pan-African Gathering for reporting purposes. The AACC seeks contributions from the AAYC hosts, AACC members, and partners to cater for the participants' accommodation, feeding, and airport transfers within Addis Ababa.

Organizations interested in holding side events at the congress will be required to register with a contribution of 5,000\$ to the congress per side event being organized. The organizers are fully responsible for their travel, accommodation, and other congress participation costs.

Methodology

The Congress will be fully in person, with the main plenaries streamed live on AACC's social media channels. It will involve thematic plenaries, group discussions, and side events such

as workshops, exhibitions, games, and sightseeing. Presentations will be keynote addresses, speeches, poems, skits, panel discussions, open plenaries, and other creative communication and knowledge-sharing forms. Prominent African youth leaders, religious leaders, and transformative African politicians will serve as resource personnel alongside experts from AACC member churches and partner organizations.