

## COMMUNIQUE ON AFRICA INTERFAITH ROADMAP TO AGENDA-2063: SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT, SECURING PEACE

Issued on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in Nairobi Kenya

*“For it is He Who has appointed you stewards over the earth, and has exalted some of you over others in rank that He may try you in what He has bestowed is upon you. Indeed, your Lord is swift in penalty; but indeed, He is Forgiving and Merciful.”*  
~ Quran 6:165

*“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” ~ Genesis 2:15*

*“O Earth! You are our Mother and we are your Offspring” ~ Atharvana Veda 12.1.12*

### Preamble

The African Council of Religious Leaders - *Religions for Peace* (ACRL-*RfP*) is a continental coalition of different faith organizations, faith communities and religious leaders working together to advance Peace, Sustainable development and shared wellbeing. We have a long history of actions through faith actors and organizations leveraging on the power of religion in Africa to mobilize citizens, large structures and facilities and the shepherding role that leaders play. As religious leaders we continue to utilize our moral authority to speak on the critical implications of climate change on social cohesion and food security, among other essential dynamics.

We remain concerned that the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are contributing largely to the triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. As peacemakers, advocates for social Justice and as heads of institutions which deliver many critical services to people, religious leaders are meeting to coordinate their strategy and actions for global policy fora including 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 27).

We, the religious leaders as members of the African Council of Religious Leaders-*Religions for Peace*, convened a Governing Board meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022, and in the presence of high-level dignitaries discussed matters of environmental degradation and threats it causes to peace in the world and particularly in Africa. Deep reflections were shared by the delegates on the promises of COP 26 and actions to be navigated towards COP 27 alongside the Africa Union (AU) Agenda 2063 aspirations.

Attainment of these aspirations requires concerted energies from diverse faiths, state actors, non-state actors and other stakeholders. As the continental expression of *Religions for Peace*, a global interreligious movement representing institutions of the world's diverse faith traditions; a network of Interreligious Councils in 92 countries and 6 regions; and interfaith women and youth networks working at local, national, and regional levels, we are committed to raise our voice on issues that affect the weak and downtrodden in society.

We acknowledge that Agenda 2063 is aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and is the master plan for Africa to deliver the ‘Africa we want’. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that Africa is warming faster than any other region,

with effects predicted as loss of crops, livestock and livelihoods. It is alarming that 1°C increase in temperature will be associated with 4.5 % greater risk of conflict in Africa by 2030 triggering weather related disasters and conflicts with already 4.3 million Africans displaced by climate change in reference to Mulhern (2022), on climate Change and Conflict in Africa

We are aware that the world's urban population is expected to nearly double and that environmental and humanitarian impacts are increasingly concentrated in cities, posing sustainability challenges in housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety and natural resources, among others. These are yielding grounds for high levels of poverty with vulnerable young people recruited into radicalization.

**We recognize that;**

1. Africa is richly endowed with natural resources, with diverse faiths and cultures providing opportunities for immense prosperity.
2. The AU Agenda 2063, elucidates and provides an excellent vision for African countries and African people and the seven (7) aspirations contained in Agenda 2063 reflect our desire for shared prosperity and well-being, for unity and integration, for a continent of free citizens and expanded horizons, where the full potential of women and youth, boys and girls are realized, and with freedom from fear, disease and want.
3. The adaptation agenda is a people centered agenda, a development agenda, and a growth agenda and Africa must close the adaptation financing gap and this cannot wait;
4. There is a connection between climate change, housing, physical planning and the need for innovative finance systems to build resilience of urban centres in Africa;
5. Climate change is happening faster than we are with our actions, pushing ecosystems and communities to their limits and we only have one decade left to restore the planet as evidenced by science;
6. There is inadequate climate financing to boost the capacity of Africa in climate innovations, climate smart agriculture, green and blue ecosystems and renewable energy to accelerate the 1.5°C temperature reduction.
7. Loss and damage are reaping communities of their lives and livelihoods;
8. Africa contributes a mere 4% to Global emissions yet its poorest communities including the indigenous peoples bear the brunt of the damages
9. The guns have not been silenced by 2020 yet extremism and violence are robbing our youth of their morals and affecting harmony among communities aggravated by climate change that is catalyzing resource related conflicts.

**Recommendations**

In cognizance of the above we:

1. Commit to raise our voices and create awareness on the unprecedented challenges that continue to threaten mother Earth. Religious leaders are determined to improve their knowledge in climate change and commit to walk with policy makers in realizing our common future.
2. Commit to take leadership in behavioral change towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production, encouraging our communities to embrace sustainable lifestyles that will increase efforts towards promoting reduction reuse and recycling.
3. Call for support for climate resilience and adaptation within our institutions to minimize the carbon footprint.
4. Call for inclusive reforms in climate change policies that integrate the voices of religious leaders, women and youth, their congregants and communities.
5. Request for support in implementation of specific climate action activities and scale up of successful projects undertaken by religious leaders including the interfaith rainforest initiative to preserve rainforests and expand carbon markets in Africa.

**Conclusion**

Let us all act on climate change actions and the impacts it is causing to communities, by taking responsibility of nurturing creation. We must all rise and deliver for Africa, a future where African men, women, youth and children thrive in a climate secure world. Finally, we call upon all World leaders, nations and governments at COP 27 to commit to pragmatic actions for the Africa we Want.

God bless us All, God bless Africa.

Signed on this day, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at Ole Sereni Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya on behalf of ACRL-RP



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**The Most Rev. Albert Chama**  
**Co-Chair ACRL-RP**



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**His Eminence Sheikh Shaban Mubajje**  
**Co-Chair ACRL-RP**