



ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (AACC) CONFERENCE DES EGLISES DE TOUTE L'AFRIQUE (CETA)

AACC-CETA

General Secretariat (HQ): P. O. Box 14205, 00800 Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya

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Tuesday, 6th October 2020

Mr. David MALPASS,
President,
World Bank Group,
1818 H Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20433 USA.
Email: eds01@worldbank.org

&
Ms. Kristalina GEORGIEVA,
IMF Managing Director,
International Monetary Fund,
700 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20431.
Email: publicaffairs@imf.org; ngoliaison@imf.org

Dear Mr. Malpass,

Dear Ms. Georgieva,

Re: Cancel the debts of poor countries for the sake of the vulnerable population as COVID-19 relief support

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) conveys compliments to your highly esteemed offices. AACC is a continental ecumenical body that accounts for over 140 million Christians across the Africa continent. It is the largest association of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and Indigenous churches in Africa. AACC is a fellowship of 198 members comprising of Churches, National Council of Churches (NCCs), theological and lay training institutions and other Christian organizations in 42 African countries.

As COVID – 19 continues to ravage across the world, poor countries are caught in an interlocking vicious circle where their capacities to provide healthcare, education and other social services are severely affected by the pandemic.

We see millions of poor African citizens failing to cope, and governments themselves stretched to their limits; thereby increasing the susceptibility and vulnerability of the bulk of the population.

PRESIDENT: Rt. Rev. Arnold C. Temple • GENERAL SECRETARY: Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki

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In this year's annual meetings of 12 - 18 October of the IMF and WB Group, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) is calling on your leadership to:

- *Cancel debts of poor and low-income countries to enable them to strengthen their healthcare and other social services. Cancelling these debts will definitely save lives.*
- *Source additional financing to support all countries in distress due to the economic, social and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including facilitating access to the IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).*
- *Issuing debt payment moratoriums and create expedient debt reprofiling processes for countries impacted by the coronavirus.*
- *Advise countries on best ways to emerge from the crisis with more resilience, and to increase protection for the vulnerable, strengthen institutions and instill greater public budget transparency and how to promote responsible lending and borrowing.*

On our part, the AACC is encouraging churches in Africa to raise awareness on issues of unsustainable debts and corruption, and to facilitate conversations in the public space based on the realities faced by citizens in their communities. The church in Africa is present at all levels of society and commands a higher level of trust than many other grassroots institutions.

We at AACC are also encouraging citizens and faith leaders to keep demanding from their governments to fight corruption in all ramifications. We are speaking out, condemning these vices, and making them known. We are also encouraging churches to use their religious and moral resources to help both perpetrators and victims of corruption as panacea for halting corrupt practices.

We trust that this communication will receive the highest consideration your highly esteemed offices can give.

Yours Sincerely,

REV. DR. FIDON MWOMBEKI
GENERAL SECRETARY

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