



**Pan African Christian AIDS Network**

**4<sup>th</sup> PACANet Pre-ICASA  
Conference Report**

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***Accelerating a grassroots church movement for a  
sustainable HIV and AIDS response***

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**1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011  
Desalegn Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

The 4<sup>th</sup> PACANet Pre-ICASA conference took place on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011 at Desalegn Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, ahead of the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA).

The conference attracted 151 participants from 30 countries, 25 from within the continent (see Appendix 1). The conference provided a forum for leaders and practitioners from different church backgrounds (including the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, African Instituted Churches, the Evangelical movement and the mainline established churches) to explore and debate, from a Christian perspective, the issues of ownership, scaling-up and sustainability in the context of the HIV and AIDS response, that will be discussed during the international conference.

*“Accelerating a grassroots church movement for a sustainable HIV and AIDS response”* was the theme of the 4<sup>th</sup> PACANet Pre-ICASA conference, whose purpose was to review progress of the Church’s response to HIV and AIDS in Africa, to renew its resolve to own and scale-up Church responses and to chart a road-map for a sustainable way forward. A number of recommendations were made by conference participants, the essence of which was captured in the final conference communiqué.

The event was hosted by PACANet, in collaboration with the Swedish International Development Agency, NORAD and the Danish Mission Council Development Department, and assisted locally by a team lead by the Swedish Philadelphia Church Mission and made up of representatives from the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, the Evangelical Church Fellowship of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Catholic Church.

## **2. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

The programme was designed to lead participants through a process of reflection and debate on how far the Church has come and how far it still needs to go in its response to HIV and AIDS in Africa and renewed commitment to own and scale-up church responses for greater impact. Through presentations, as well as guided group discussions, the programme sought to enable participants to make recommendations about a sustainable way forward, resulting in the production of a conference communiqué.

### **2.1. Worship and Devotions**

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the person designated to lead worship during the conference was unable to attend at the last minute. As a result worship relied on the instigation and creativity of those present.

Each day began with a devotional talk by Dr Toby Awasum, Pastor of the Omega Gospel Mission, USA. On Day 1, Dr Awasum reminded the participants of the unique mandate and role of the Christian church in responding to situations such as the AIDS epidemic. He called on the church to pray, but exhorted that faith should not be without reason, and appealed for the harmonization of faith with public health and/or bio-medical interventions.

The devotional talk on Day 2 was postponed until the closing ceremony and focussed on encouraging the church to take up its rightful position in the world, especially in Africa, to ensure the reversal of the tide of the AIDS epidemic. Dr Awasum called for vigilance and individualised commitment to support the cause of PACANet, as a God ordained cause worthy of support.

## 2.2. Official Opening

The conference was officially opened by a representative of His Holiness Abune Paulos I, Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church who gave a brief address highlighting church achievements in responding to HIV and AIDS thus far and encouraging churches to unite and cooperate further in this struggle.

Rev Alemu Shetta, General Secretary of the Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia also welcomed and encouraged participants to engage in meaningful deliberations and fruitful experience sharing so as to demonstrate the love, compassion and will of God.

## 2.3. Plenary Presentations

### 2.3.1. Day1: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011

During the first plenary session on Day 1, Rev Edward Baralemwa, Executive Secretary of PACANet, Uganda provided participants with an overview of the conference proceedings before Dr Raphael Avornyo, from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana outlined the church's response to date to the pandemic and gave recommendations for an effective future involvement of the Church. Dr Avornyo concluded by exhorting the Church to continue to be the 'salt of the earth' and 'light of the world' (Mathew 5: 13-14), by excelling in word and deed, creating life-giving communities of faith that care for the vulnerable, giving them dignity and hope.

The next series of presentations sought to address issues of ownership, scaling-up and sustainability. The Bishop Joshua Banda, Overseer of Northmead Assembly, Zambia spoke about the plight of church interventions in view of dwindling resources. After outlining the serious challenges posed by the threat of reduced HIV funding, especially given the present economic downturn, Bishop Banda, proceeded to encourage the church to be more prayerful in its approach towards resource mobilisation and proposed a number of possible funding avenues for churches to explore.

David Kabiswa, an independent consultant from Uganda, spoke about the sustainability of the church-based response, and emphasised the need for the church to be governed by principles not by fads or fashions, outlining a number of practical concepts to help the church place sustainability at the core of its thinking and action.

The presentation by Rev Moses Gobah, Christian HIV and AIDS Network of Liberia addressed the issue of realising scope and scale through a congregational response. The speaker underscored the need to mainstream HIV into church policies and practices, and the engagement of church leadership and membership for an increased and effective HIV and AIDS response.

Rev Pauline Njiru, WCC-EHAIA, Kenya talked about harnessing the church's comparative advantage in the continuum of care. Having highlighted the dichotomy within most churches between the pastoral ministry and social action, Rev Njiru encouraged a redefinition of religion and spirituality in the light of the pandemic in the African context, so as to affirm life and shun any practices or beliefs that would otherwise put life in danger, and encouraged a fresh acknowledgement of the church's position as advocate in the local and broader context.

These presentations were followed by a group of talks by coordinators of country Christian AIDS Networks, designed to showcase their networks and demonstrate a variety of different strategies being adopted in their collaborative efforts.

Mbolatiana Raharinivo from the Malagasy Christian AIDS Network, Madagascar shared some of the network's best practices, and Emmanuel Guanue from the Christian HIV and AIDS Network of Liberia outlined the network's role in contribution to the national AIDS response through collaboration with the National AIDS Council. Bibian Christine Baralewma of the Uganda Christian AIDS Network highlighted the multiplier effect of the congregational-level response the network has adopted, while the role of North-South partnerships in the evolution of the network in Burkina Faso was shared by Florence Dilma from the CCANet-Burkina. Finally, the coordinator of the Church Forum on HIV and AIDS, Swaziland, Rev Shabalala Zwanini, emphasised the cascading impact of interventions through church denominational mother bodies, and Doris Bah from the Network of Christians Response to HIV and AIDS in Sierra Leone talked about the role of the media in attaining scale and scope.

### 2.3.2. Day 2: 2nd December 2011

Plenary presentations on Day 2 were kicked off by Prof Daniel Louw from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa with a thought-provoking talk looking at HIV and AIDS not simply as a behavioural issue of change but as one that requires change in terms of the church's thinking, perceptions and perspective. In the quest for a grassroots prevention model on human sexuality, Prof Louw highlighted the church's need to re-evaluate its thinking and practice, especially in term of its understanding of human sexuality.

This was followed by a series of presentations focussing on advocacy. David Modiega, CUAHA International, Kenya, spoke about the unique position of the church in responding to HIV and AIDS, particularly in term of educating and building the capacity of church members to scale up the church's response.

Prof Ezra Chitando, a theology consultant with WCC-EHAIA, Zimbabwe, addressed the vulnerability of men and the boy child to sexual and gender-based violence and HIV in light of the social construction of masculinity and the pre-occupation with "women's empowerment," emphasising the need for a more holistic approach, empowering women and men, boys and girls, together.

In a talk infused with personal anecdotes, Dr Nyambura Njoroge, Program Executive of the World Council of Churches, Switzerland, recounted the journey of the church in terms of contribution towards women, girls and those with disabilities, highlighting that, though some progress has been made, still much more needs to be done to affirm, include and empower women, children and those with disabilities.

The afternoon plenary session on Day 2 included a variety of presentations highlighting different organisational or church-based approaches.

Dr Adamu Addissie Nuramo from the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology outlined the contribution of theological education and research in the response to HIV and AIDS through ANHERTHA. Shannon Thomson from Tearfund, UK provided an overview of the critical need for palliative care within HIV care and support, while Irene Kwape from Botswana spoke about the case of BOCAIP in raising scale through extensive training in the church. Integrating sustainable livelihoods approaches into the HIV response was addressed by Debora Randall an Independent Consultant based in Rwanda and Ephraim Kahsay from Tearfund UK, Ethiopia and finally Jane Ng'ang'a, KENERELA+, Kenya presented on the role of religious leaders infected and affected by HIV and AIDS as agents of change.

## **2.4. Group Discussions**

Guided group discussions took place each day after the plenary sessions. Participants were divided into six different groups (Red, Orange, Yellow, Blue, Purple and Green for Francophone speakers).

Group discussions were designed to stimulate reflection and dialogue on the topics introduced during the plenary presentations. Each group was given different questions to explore and debate, and given opportunity to provide feedback on their deliberations to the whole conference.

The main issues and proposed action or responses raised in the feedback sessions were captured by the Communiqué Team to be incorporated into the final conference communiqué.

## **2.5. Conference Communiqué**

A small group of participants was appointed to summarise the essence of the presentations and deliberations of the various group discussions and compile them into a conference communiqué, outlining the various recommendations and resolutions of the conference participants (see Appendix 2).

The overarching resolution participants committed to was to contribute to the current UNAIDS slogan and perspective of “zero discrimination; zero new infections; zero HIV & AIDS related deaths”, by adopting the strategic resolve of a “zero incompetent churches at grassroots level”.

## **2.6. The Closing Ceremony**

The Closing Ceremony took place over dinner at the end of Day 2.

Reflections on the conference from a participant were given by Dr Sue Parry, WCC-EHAIA from Zimbabwe, while closing remarks were given by a representative of His Grace Abune Samuel, member of the Holy Synod and Archbishop of EOTC-DICAC, Ethiopia. His Grace encouraged the Christian community to continue to respond to the pandemic in a coordinated and sustainable manner and highlighted the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church’s commitment to supporting PACANet’s endeavours in fulfilling its mission in Africa, and especially in Ethiopia.

This was followed by a moving performance by an Ethiopian choir, Getachew and Esaiyas, in which worship songs and dance were offered in praise to God.

Sam Udanyi, the newly appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees of PACANet, from SUWA Nigeria closed the programme by thanking various people and organisations who helped in the organisation and successful running of the conference.

## **3. PRE-ICASA CONFERENCE LINK TO ICASA**

Through the ICASA Community Program, the PACANet Pre-ICASA conference established links with the ICASA organisers. A PACANet representative attended regular pre-conference Community Program meetings and submitted regular updates on conference preparations and programme development.

Moreover, during the Pre-ICASA conference, PACANet received a visit by Dr Dawit, the coordinator of the ICASA Community Program, and conference daily reports as well as the communiqué were posted on the ICASA website.

A small number of Pre-ICASA participants also attended the ICASA.

#### 4. CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Out of the total number of 151 participants, 67 Conference Evaluation forms in English and 15 in French were returned, for a total of 82 respondents. Respondents were fairly equally divided across the various discussion groups (14 from Red, 13 from Orange, 10 from Yellow, 16 from Blue, 11 from Purple and 11 from Green).

As indicated in the table below high satisfaction levels were recorded in most areas.

|                              |                                    | Web       | Colleague | Partner org | PACANet       | Other | Not stated |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------|------------|
| Communication & organisation | Heard about conference             | 7%        | 12%       | 30%         | 51%           | -     | -          |
|                              |                                    | Yes       | No        | Not stated  |               |       |            |
|                              | Adequate communication             | 89%       | 6%        | 5%          |               |       |            |
|                              | Usefulness of folders              | 83%       | 10%       | 7%          |               |       |            |
|                              |                                    | Excellent | Good      | Average     | Below average | Poor  | Not stated |
|                              | Conference organisation            | 29%       | 53%       | 17%         | 1%            | -     | -          |
|                              | Translation services               | 16%       | 29%       | 43%         | 6%            | -     | 6%         |
| Hotel                        | Accommodation and facilities       | 36%       | 50%       | 7%          | 1%            | -     | 6%         |
|                              | Meals                              | 39%       | 43%       | 12%         | 2%            | -     | 4%         |
| Plenary Session              | Plenary sessions Day 1             | 20%       | 51%       | 24%         | -             | -     | 5%         |
|                              | Plenary sessions Day 2             | 17%       | 55%       | 23%         | 3%            | 1%    | 1%         |
| Group Discussions            | Group facilitation                 | 38%       | 36%       | 17%         | 1%            | 1%    | 7%         |
|                              | Stimulation of engaging discussion | 37%       | 38%       | 15%         | 2%            | -     | 8%         |
|                              | Listened to and included           | 31%       | 40%       | 17%         | 1%            | -     | 11%        |
| Usefulness of communiqué     |                                    | 13%       | 42%       | 22%         | 6%            | 2%    | 15%        |

The main comments, with regard to future improvements, concentrated on providing a less packed programme, with fewer presentations and sufficient time for discussion and reflection. Question and answer sessions and the spreading of the programme over more days were further recommendations. Participants also highlighted the need for

effective and strict time management. Moreover, participants suggested that fewer topics be addressed but in greater depth.

A number of suggested topics or issues for future deliberation were suggested and will be carefully considered by PACANet.

## **5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

PACANet would like to thank the following people and organisations for the part in the success of the Pre-ICASA conference:

- Development partners: The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the Danish Mission Committee Development Department (DMCDD).
- Local Ethiopian Support Team.
- The Conference Programme Committee.
- The Programme Chair and Assistant Chairs; Group Work Coordinator and Facilitators.
- The Presenters.
- The Interpreters.
- The Staff of PACANet.
- The Staff of the Hotel where the conference took place.



## 6. APPENDIX

### 6.1. Appendix 1: List of participants

| Name                                      | Country                      | Organisation   |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| Mr Roger Agbakli                          | Benin                        | BUPDOS   |
| Mrs Judith Alofan Dognon                  | Benin                        | BUPDOS   |
| Rev Sam Makgaola                          | Botswana                     | Assemblies of God  |
| Mrs Irene Mpho Kwape                      | Botswana                     | Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Programme                                 |
| Mr Baatweng Motladiile                    | Botswana                     | Scripture Union  |
| Mrs Florence Dilma Ouedraogo              | Burkina Faso                 | CCANet-Burkina   |
| Mrs Honorine Felicite Ouedraogo           | Burkina Faso                 | CCANet-Burkina   |
| Mr Dafidi David Lompo                     | Burkina Faso                 | Conseil national des évangélique pour lutter contre le sida et les IST (CNELS) |
| Mr Appiah Godstime                        | Burkina Faso                 | CREDO  |
| Mr Moise Diabri                           | Burkina Faso                 | Eglise Evangelique SIM   |
| Mr Namoussa Nadiéba                       | Burkina Faso                 | Eglise Evangelique SIM   |
| Mrs Cesalie Nyandwi Nicimpaye             | Burundi                      | Dutabarane   |
| Rev Nzosaba Juvénal                       | Burundi                      | Dutabarane   |
| Ms Clémence Gasana                        | Burundi                      | Family Impact  |
| Mr John Essobe                            | Cameroon                     | Conseil des Eglises Protestantes du Cameroun                                   |
| Mr Bernard Pierre Messing                 | Cameroon                     | Council of Heirs International Missions  |
| Mrs Terny Adka Yoya                       | Chad                         | Entente des Eglises et Missions Evangeliques au Tchad (EMEET)                  |
| Rev Sr Dr Jeanne Cécile Nyamungu Atimnedi | Democratic Republic of Congo | BDOM/CARITAS Bunia   |
| Mr Roger Bokandenga Gbamo                 | Democratic Republic of Congo | Eglise du Christ au Congo  |
| Ms Karen Swartz Soerensen                 | Denmark                      | Danish Mission Council Development Department                                  |
| Dr Adamu Addissie Nuramo                  | Ethiopia                     | AAU (Addis Ababa University) and EGST (Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology)  |
| Ms Rahel Getinet                          | Ethiopia                     | Community Transformation   |
| Mr Afework Tafesse                        | Ethiopia                     | ECFE   |
| Mr Yoseph Imana                           | Ethiopia                     | EMWACDO  |
| Aba Zewde Mena                            | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Catholic Church  |
| Sr Etalemahu Kebede                       | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Catholic Church  |
| Sr Maheder Tadella                        | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Catholic Church  |
| Sr Senail Gobena                          | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Catholic Church  |
| Pastor Yilma Wake                         | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Full Gospel Believers' Church  |
| Akineda G/M                               | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology  |
| Amakelech Alessa                          | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology  |
| Ananya Tassew                             | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology  |
| Bethelhem Chala                           | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology  |
| Birukatawit Yohannes                      | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology  |
| Daniel Fite                               | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology  |
| Estifanos Belayneh                        | Ethiopia                     | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology  |

|                                    |          |   |
|------------------------------------|----------|---|
| Fanos Workalemahu                  | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Leul Tereche                       | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Mastewal Mekonnen                  | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Mekdes Ayinalem                    | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Metasebia Assefa                   | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Naod Mekonnen                      | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Seblewengel Alemu                  | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Shewaye Fikre                      | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Solomon Asfaw                      | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Teshome Alemu                      | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Tsion Getachew                     | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Youdit Tariku                      | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Zerihun Abebe                      | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology   |
| Pastor Ashebir Ketema              | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Gunet Church  |
| Mr Gameda Adolla                   | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Hiwot Berhan Church   |
| Mr Begashaw Addisu                 | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Hiwot Berhan Church<br>Development Organization   |
| Miss Saba Gebreselassie            | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Orthodox Church   |
| Rev Samson Bekele                  | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Orthodox Church   |
| Dr Abba Hailemariam Melese         | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church  |
| Mr Melake Tabor Teshome<br>Zerihun | Ethiopia | Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church  |
| Mrs Dorothy Hanson                 | Ethiopia | ETNERELA+ Ethiopia  |
| Dr Wondwessen Desta                | Ethiopia | Evangelical Churches Fellowship of<br>Ethiopia  |
| Miss Menbere Bekele                | Ethiopia | Evangelical Churches Fellowship of<br>Ethiopia  |
| Mr Girma Tafesse                   | Ethiopia | Evangelical Churches Fellowship of<br>Ethiopia  |
| Mr Tadele Mamo                     | Ethiopia | Evangelical Churches Fellowship of<br>Ethiopia  |
| Mr Bizuayehu Kifle                 | Ethiopia | Mennonite Central Committee   |
| Mr Demike Shitae                   | Ethiopia | Mennonite Central Committee   |
| Mr Samuel Bale                     | Ethiopia | Mennonite Central Committee   |
| Mr Solomon Gebregiorgisi           | Ethiopia | Mennonite Central Committee   |
| Mr Solomon Tefari                  | Ethiopia | Mennonite Central Committee   |
| Mr Tilahun Molla                   | Ethiopia | Mennonite Central Committee   |
| Ms Alemnesh Mulugeta               | Ethiopia | Mennonite Central Committee   |
| Ms Tamara Hayes                    | Ethiopia | Mennonite Central Committee   |
| Mrs Kazala Gabre Tensay            | Ethiopia | SPCM/EHBC   |
| Mr Daniel Gezahegne                | Ethiopia | Swedish Philadelphia Church Mission   |
| Mrs Anita Fällsten                 | Ethiopia | Swedish Philadelphia Church Mission   |
| Mrs Maria Chelge                   | Ethiopia | Swedish Philadelphia Church Mission   |
| Mr Esaiyas Ambole                  | Ethiopia | Swedish Philadelphia Church Mission   |
| Mr Ephraim Kahsay                  | Ethiopia | Tearfund UK   |
| Dr Hunduma Kumera Merga            | Ethiopia | The Ethiopian Evangelical Church<br>Mekane Yesus Development and<br>Social Services Commission (EECMY-<br>DASSC ) |

|                                    |              |   |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Mr Shiferaw Legesse                | Ethiopia     | Word Of Life Church(EKHC)   |
| Dr Raphael Avornyo                 | Ghana        | University of Cape Coast  |
| Mr David Modiega                   | Kenya        | CUAHA International   |
| Mr Wycliffe Nsheka                 | Kenya        | CUAHA International   |
| Ms Mary Njuguna                    | Kenya        | CUAHA International   |
| Rev Thomas Malande                 | Kenya        | Family Impact-Africa  |
| Mrs Jane Ng'ang'a                  | Kenya        | KENERELA+   |
| Ms Judith Carolyn Odwaro           | Kenya        | Kenya Mennonite Church  |
| Ms Rose Adhiambo Machowe           | Kenya        | Kenya Mennonite Church  |
| Dr Robert Carter                   | Kenya        | Moffat Bible College  |
| Mrs Hope Carter                    | Kenya        | Moffat Bible College  |
| Rev David Gichung'wa               | Kenya        | Scripture Union Africa Region   |
| Mrs MaryAnn Mwangi                 | Kenya        | St Paul's University  |
| Mr Kofi Agamah                     | Kenya        | United Bible Societies, Africa Service Centre   |
| Rev Pauline Njiru                  | Kenya        | WCC-EHAIA   |
| Mrs Selma Gibson                   | Liberia      | CHANOL  |
| Rev Moses Gobah                    | Liberia      | Christian HIV & AIDS Network of Liberia   |
| Mr Emmanuel Guanue                 | Liberia      | Christian HIV and AIDS Network of Liberia   |
| Mr Sumo Woyea                      | Liberia      | Lutheran Church in Liberia  |
| Rev Jean William Razafimahatratra  | Madagascar   | MACANet   |
| Mrs Mbolatiana Raharinivo          | Madagascar   | Malagasy Christian AIDS Network   |
| Dr Josephine Rasoampamonjy         | Madagascar   | Malagasy Lutheran Church  |
| Ms Lalao Ramarason                 | Madagascar   | PACANet   |
| Dr Petros Nyakunu                  | Mozambique   | Kubatsirana   |
| Dr Matthew Megill                  | Niger        | SIM Galmi Hospital  |
| Mr Lawali Yahaya                   | Niger        | SIM Galmi Hospital  |
| Mr Sani Hassane                    | Niger        | SIM Galmi Hospital  |
| Ms Carol Montgomery                | Niger        | SIM Galmi Hospital  |
| Ms Yop Sambo                       | Niger        | SIM Galmi Hospital  |
| Eng Lawrence Osho                  | Nigeria      | Family Heritage Initiative  |
| Mr Sam Udanyi                      | Nigeria      | Scripture Union   |
| Rev Francis Karemera               | Rwanda       | Anglican Church of Rwanda   |
| Ms Debora Randall                  | Rwanda       | Independent Consultant  |
| Ms Jeannine Uwimana                | Rwanda       | School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape (RSA) and National University of Rwanda |
| Mrs Doris Bah                      | Sierra Leone | Network of Christians Response to HIV and AIDS in Sierra Leone                                  |
| Mr Charles Siaka                   | Sierra Leone | Network of Christians Response to HIV and AIDS in Sierra Leone(NECHRAS)                         |
| Ms Lyn van Rooyen                  | South Africa | CABSA   |
| Rev Johannes Petrus Mokgethi-Heath | South Africa | INERELA+  |
| Mrs Susan McDonald                 | South Africa | SIM   |
| Prof Daniel Louw                   | South Africa | University of Stellenbosch  |

|                                |                |  |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Mr Ishmael Gulliver            | South Sudan    | Sudan Evangelical Mission              |
| Mrs Elizabeth Otieno           | South Sudan    | Sudan Evangelical Mission              |
| Ms Hlobisile Nxumalo           | Swaziland      | Acts of Faith                          |
| Rev Shabalala Zwanini          | Swaziland      | Church Forum on HIV and AIDS           |
| Rev Dickson Mukunda            | Swaziland      | Swaziland Church Forum on HIV and AIDS |
| Rev Dr Njoroge Nyambura        | Switzerland    | World Council of Churches              |
| Dr Fulgence Binagwa            | Tanzania       | AZABI                                  |
| Mrs Mariam Munga               | Tanzania       | Grace & Healing Ministry               |
| Mrs Yustina Ryoba              | Tanzania       | Grace & Healing Ministry               |
| Mr Loti Misinzo                | Tanzania       | Imara                                  |
| Mr Mabuba Ndege                | Tanzania       | Imara                                  |
| Mr Kenneth Fleck               | Thailand       | SIM                                    |
| Mrs Ayoko Bahun-Wilson         | Togo           | EHAIA West Africa                      |
| Pastor Joshua Lwere            | Uganda         | Grace Assembly                         |
| Mr David Kabiswa               | Uganda         | Independent Consultant                 |
| Mr Erisa Bigirwenkya           | Uganda         | PACANet                                |
| Mr Joel Kigenyi                | Uganda         | PACANet                                |
| Mr Pascal Ngona                | Uganda         | PACANet                                |
| Mrs Betty Kansiime             | Uganda         | PACANet                                |
| Mrs Daniela Calvi Renno        | Uganda         | PACANet                                |
| Mrs Loyce Mugisa               | Uganda         | PACANet                                |
| Rev Edward Baralemwa           | Uganda         | PACANet                                |
| Mrs Bibian Christine Baralemwa | Uganda         | Uganda Christian AIDS Network          |
| Ms Shannon Thomson             | United Kingdom | Tearfund                               |
| Dr Carolyn Klaus               | USA            | Hope in View                           |
| Dr Toby Awasum                 | USA            | Omega Gospel Mission                   |
| Dr Clarence Hall               | USA            | PACANet-USA                            |
| Dr Rose Nesbitt                | USA            | PACANet-USA                            |
| Mrs Lenora Davis               | USA            | PACANet-USA                            |
| Mr Maron Haron Musamba         | Zambia         | Lifeline in Zambia                     |
| Rt Rev Joshua HK Banda         | Zambia         | Northmead Assembly                     |
| Prof Ezra Chitando             | Zimbabwe       | WCC-EHAIA                              |
| Dr Susan Parry Purcell-Gilpin  | Zimbabwe       | World Council of Churches - EHAIA      |

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## **6.2. Appendix 2: Conference Communiqué**



Pan African Christian AIDS Network

# **PACANet 4<sup>th</sup> Pre-ICASA Conference Communiqué**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011**

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## ***Accelerating a Grassroots Church Movement for a Sustainable HIV and AIDS Response***

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### **Preamble**

From 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011, in Desalegn Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Pan African Christian AIDS Network (PACANet) convened a conference, ahead of the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), to explore and debate, from a Christian perspective, the issues of ownership, scaling-up and sustainability of the Church's response to HIV and AIDS in Africa.

The event in Addis Ababa was hosted by PACANet, in collaboration with the Swedish International Development Agency, NORAD and the Danish Mission Council Development Department, and assisted locally by a team lead by the Swedish Philadelphia Church Mission and made up of representatives from the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, the Evangelical Church Fellowship of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Catholic Church.

The purpose of the conference was to review progress of the Church's response to HIV and AIDS in Africa, to renew its resolve to own and scale-up Church responses and to chart a road-map for a sustainable way forward.

In attendance were 151 participants (87 males and 64 females) from 30 countries (25 from within the continent). The participants represented leaders and practitioners from different church backgrounds, including the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, African Instituted Churches, the Evangelical movement and the mainline established churches.

PACANet is a continental networking body that seeks to link churches, Christian organizations and networks in Africa to enhance their HIV and AIDS responses by sharing ideas, skills, experiences and resources and to stimulate strategic partnerships. Given this mission, PACANet is dedicated to holding a Pre-ICASA Conference, every two years, ahead of the ICASA.

Participants of the 4<sup>th</sup> PACANet Pre-ICASA conference committed to the following statement.

## Recommendations

We call for:

### 1. The Shifting of Paradigms

- A move from destructive and negative paradigms (i.e. punishment and stigmatization) to constructive and life promoting paradigms focusing on the promotion of human identity and human dignity.
- Appropriate and meaningful involvement in daily life issues at grassroots level within the local framework of the African cultural context.
- A deliberate and urgent effort to harmonize faith and science, belief and life.
- An emphasis on teaching about identity in Christ alongside the focus on preaching and the proclamation of the gospel.

### 2. The Quest for Competence

- The church to adopt an inclusive model, where we “do the right thing” as well as being the “right church” at grassroots level. This should encompass inner competence (i.e. personal responses; local responsibility; recognition of the impact and risk factors; compassionate involvement; unmasking stigma, discrimination and denial associated with HIV & AIDS), outer competence (i.e. technical competence and strategic planning; appropriate theological knowledge; networking within an inclusive social approach; promotion of dignity and hope) and the bridge between inner and outer competence (i.e. leadership, knowledge and resources).

### 3. Sustainability

- Discipline in thought, words and actions so as to realize sustainability relevant for development outcomes; benchmarks; long term motivation; sources and resources.

### 4. Fundraising and Resources

- A shift from fundraising from abroad to fundraising within the capacity of the African setting; i.e. tapping the resources within local communities and believers.
- The linking of financial resources with the development of “human capital”: invest in human potential development.

### 5. The Reframing of the Notion of Human Sexuality

- The Church to adopt a constructive educational model for the promotion of the understanding of human sexuality within the Church, which includes educational youth models on sex and sexuality from the Christian perspective, beyond the merely “no-sex-before-marriage” paradigm.
- An understanding of the Christian spiritual purpose and meaning of human sexuality; an integrative understanding of our being human, beyond the schism (dualism) between body and soul; the sacredness of intercourse; the sanctification of the human body and its sexual functioning.

### 6. Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in church practice (The Quest for a Grassroots Kingdom of God Model)

- Mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS with emphasis on service delivery to grassroots communities and on integrating HIV and AIDS related issues into programmes of church ministries.
- We call for a “Kingdom of God” centred model which would include:
  - A small group approach;
  - Home care and ARV Treatment
  - A community focused approach;
  - The incorporation of local people and identification of community leaders.
- Special attention to be given to palliative care in order to improve the quality of life of those with life-limiting illnesses.

### 7. Advocacy and Christian Leadership

- Training and leadership formation that focus on passion; compassion; excellence; the energizing of human potential and resources.

- The inclusion of religious leaders infected and affected by HIV and AIDS in local projects as agents of change.

#### 8. The Reframing of Power

- The reframing of power, whether male or female, as both are exposed to vulnerability and should be approached from the perspective of human dignity.
- The consideration of issues such as power abuse and the treatment of women; the position of males within feminist campaigns; the acknowledgement of the work done by women on grassroots level; the challenge how to incorporate males within “women care giving work”; loveless and inhumane stigmatization and discrimination within the realm of human sexuality.

#### 9. Networking

- The formation of new partnerships, including North–South, as well as South–South partnerships; interdenominational cooperation; interfaith interaction; inclusion of both the private and public sector.
- The overcoming of “denominationalism” (barriers due to doctrine, church polity, and confessional issues) and the joining of hands as together we can do more and better.

#### 10. The Interplay between the Social Media and Culturality

- The Church to explore avenues of incorporating the media within the notions of advocacy and the communication of appropriate knowledge regarding HIV & AIDS; the link between cultural traditions and the notion of human sexuality.
- An understanding of the interplay between culture, tradition and globalization.

#### Conclusion

In light of the above, we, the participants of the 4<sup>th</sup> PACANet Pre-ICASA conference, commit to contribute to the current UNAIDS slogan and perspective: “*zero discrimination; zero new infections; zero HIV & AIDS related deaths*”, by adopting the following strategic resolve: “*zero incompetent churches at grassroots level*”.

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