



THE RETURN TO AFRICA

FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

2nd Africa and African Diaspora (AAD) Conference 2026: "The Return to Africa"

Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre, Johannesburg | Programme as at 24 October 2026 | (Online) = joining online | (TBC) = to be confirmed

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER | AAD Women's Pre-Conference in partnership with PAWEEN/PAW: "Return to Africa": The Memory and Moment of "God Seeing Me" to Live and Lead a Rewritten Narrative of Divine Power

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
All day	Arrivals and check-in	
08h00-08h30	Registration and welcome tea	
08h45-08h54	Opening: Why We Gather and Introductions	▪ MODERATOR Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie President and General Secretary, National Council of Churches in the USA Topic: <i>Welcome and purpose of the day</i> <i>Brief reflection: Women of Africa and the Diaspora at a moment of pushback and promise in light of the theme</i>
08h55-09h10	Devotional Opening, Welcome and Introduction of Devotional Messenger	▪ Rev. Storia Seitisho Senior Administrator, Gauteng Provincial Council, South African Council of Churches (SACC)
09h10-09h25	Devotional Message	▪ Rev. Juliet Windvogel Methodist Church of Southern Africa (Namibia) Topic: <i>Genesis 16:13: Hagar, an African enslaved woman, says to God in the desert: "You are the God who sees me!" in light of the theme</i>
09h25-09h30	Introduction of Keynote Speakers on the Theme	▪ MODERATOR Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie President and General Secretary, National Council of Churches in the USA
09h30-09h50	Opening Keynote: Africa	▪ Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe President, All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) Topic: <i>"Return to Africa": The Memory and Moment of "God Seeing Me" to Live and Lead a Rewritten Narrative of Divine Power in Africa</i>



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09h50–10h10	Opening Keynote: The African Diaspora	▪ Rev. Dr Cleusa Caldeira Professor, Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Campinas (PUC-Campinas), Brazil <i>Topic: "Return to Africa": The Memory and Moment of "God Seeing Me" to Live and Lead a Rewritten Narrative of Divine Power in the African Diaspora</i>
10h10–10h30	Opening Keynote: A Pan-African Global World	▪ Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith Co-Convenor, AAD Conference; President from North America–Turtle Island, World Council of Churches; Bread for the World (USA) <i>Topic: "Return to Africa": The Memory and Moment of "God Seeing Me" to Live and Lead a Rewritten Narrative of Divine Power in a Pan-African Global World</i>
10h30–11h00	Tea break	
11h00–11h15	Introduction of Storytelling Circle Facilitator(s)	▪ MODERATOR Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie President and General Secretary, National Council of Churches in the USA
11h15–12h00	Storytelling Circle: "Our Voices, Our Strategy: African and Diasporic Women Speak"	<i>A facilitated circle of Pan-African women sharing personal narratives connected to the day's themes, with a brief story overview of the journey to the Declaration.</i> 11h15 Overview ▪ FACILITATOR Rev. Dr Velda Love Minister for Racial Justice, United Church of Christ ▪ CO-FACILITATOR Rev. Dr Terri Hord Owens General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada 11h20 Storytellers of the Declaration Journey ▪ 11h20 STORYTELLER Ms Esther Souza Brazil <i>Topic: 388 years of slavery, and what about the Church? Black women's memory in Brazil, at COP30 Brazil</i> ▪ 11h25 STORYTELLER Rev. Rochelle Andrews PAWEEN/PAW; Co-Convener, Rewriting the Narrative Annual Conference 2025 (Washington DC) ▪ 11h30 STORYTELLER Dr Pauline Christian PAWEEN/PAW; African Union 6th Region; G20 Consultation with the African Union 2025 (South Africa) 11h35–12h00 Open moderated discussion on the theme and the Declaration, with Q&A <i>Index cards for inputs</i>
12h15–13h30	Luncheon Celebration: Honouring the Legacy and Life of Dr Brigalia Bam, Iconic Ecumenical and Public Leader Globally and in South Africa	12h15 Moderator ▪ Rev. Nicole Ashwood Programme Executive for a Just Community of Women and Men, World Council of Churches (Jamaica and Geneva) 12h20 Brief opening remarks and prayer ▪ Rev. Storia Seitsho Senior Administrator, Gauteng Provincial Council, South African Council of Churches (SACC) 12h25 Lunch is served 12h40 Introduction of speakers (together) by the Moderator



		Brief remarks
		▪ 12h45 Rev. Dr Jerry Pillay General Secretary, World Council of Churches
		▪ 12h50 Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe President, All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)
		▪ 12h55 Dr Pauline Christian African Union 6th Region (Canada/Nigeria)
		▪ 13h00 Rev. Dr Barney Pityana Former Vice-Chancellor, University of South Africa (UNISA); former Executive, WCC Programme to Combat Racism
		▪ 13h05 Rev. Frank Chikane Co-Convenor, AAD Conference; former Moderator, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches
		13h10 Brief remarks and presentation (3 minutes each)
		▪ Dr Barbara Reynolds Member, UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (Trinidad and Tobago/Guyana/Switzerland)
		▪ Dr Ashwini K.P. UN Special Rapporteur on Racism
		Presentation of gifts (2 minutes each)
		▪ Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith Co-Convenor, AAD Conference; President from North America– Turtle Island, World Council of Churches; Bread for the World (USA)
		▪ Rev. Storia Seitisho Senior Administrator, Gauteng Provincial Council, South African Council of Churches (SACC)
		13h20 Response from the Honoree
		▪ Dr Brigalia Bam Honoree
		13h30 Closing prayer
		▪ Rev. Juliet Windvogel Methodist Church of Southern Africa (Namibia)
13h45–15h00	Memory and Rewriting the Narrative: Voice, Land, Migration, Displacement and Food Security <i>Thematic Working Groups (parallel sessions)</i>	Group 1: Climate Justice and Environmental Leadership (Plenary) Topic: <i>Black women's leadership for climate justice and the environment</i> ▪ CO-FACILITATOR AND RAPPORTEUR Ms Esther Souza Brazil (with Brother Rafael Brito, Brazil) ▪ CO-FACILITATOR Dr Lourdes Brazil dos Santos Argueta (Online) Director, Centro Ambiental Gênesis, Brazil Group 2: Forced Migration and the Feminisation of Displacement (Breakaway Room 2) Topic: <i>Women, forced migration and displacement: from the Middle Passage to today</i> ▪ CO-FACILITATOR Dr Barbara Reynolds Member, UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (Trinidad and Tobago/Guyana/Switzerland)



		▪ CO-FACILITATOR Rev. Marvia Lawes WCC Reference Group on Racism and Xenophobia; WCC Working Group on Reparations and Restorative Justice (Jamaica) Group 3: Poverty, Inequality and Food Security (Breakaway Room 1) <i>Topic: Religion, climate change and food security in Africa</i> ▪ CO-FACILITATOR Dr Sophie Chirongoma Research Associate, Research Institute for Theology and Religion, University of South Africa (UNISA) ▪ CO-FACILITATOR Rev. Rochelle Andrews Convener, Pan African Women's Ecumenical Empowerment Network (PAWEEN-PAW), USA
15h00–15h15	Break	
15h15–15h45	Intergenerational Perspectives	▪ Rev. Danielle Hickman Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, United Church of Christ (USA) <i>Topic: What young women inherit, and what we will build</i>
15h45–16h15	Femicide and Gender-Based Violence in South Africa and Globally	▪ 15h45 Rev. Storia Seitisho Senior Administrator, Gauteng Provincial Council, South African Council of Churches (SACC) <i>Topic: South Africa's femicide and GBV crisis: what it demands of the Church and the nation</i> ▪ 15h55 Rev. Nicole Ashwood Programme Executive for a Just Community of Women and Men, World Council of Churches (Jamaica and Geneva) <i>Topic: Global church responses to GBV: building a just community of women and men</i> 16h05 Q&A
16h15–16h45	Women's Pre-Conference Summation and Declaration	▪ Dr Pauline Christian African Union 6th Region (Canada/Nigeria) <i>Topic: Summation of the day</i> ▪ Ms Esther Souza Brazil ▪ Rapporteur and drafting team <i>Topic: Presentation and adoption of the Women's Declaration and commitments</i>
16h45–17h15	Closing Prayer Service for Women Affected by Violence in South Africa and Globally <i>Dedication of the Declaration, Commitment and Blessing</i>	▪ PRAYER SERVICE LEADER Rev. Storia Seitisho Senior Administrator, Gauteng Provincial Council, South African Council of Churches (SACC) ▪ MODERATOR Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie President and General Secretary, National Council of Churches in the USA <i>Topic: Commitment and blessing</i>
17h30–18h00	Media Conference on Gender-Based Violence and Announcement: Pre-Women's Conference Declaration and AAD Conference Begins/Highlights	Spokespersons ▪ CO-CONVENOR Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith Co-Convenor, AAD Conference; President from North America–Turtle Island, World Council of Churches; Bread for the World (USA)



		▪ CO-CONVENOR Rev. Frank Chikane Co-Convenor, AAD Conference; former Moderator, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches ▪ Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe President, All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) ▪ Rev. Storia Seitisho South African Council of Churches ▪ Rev. Dr Jerry Pillay General Secretary, World Council of Churches
19h00–20h30	Welcome Reception	<i>Welcome speeches, greetings and introductions of guests, hosted by the Host Committee and South African delegates, welcoming our siblings from the Diaspora to the continent and to South Africa. Delegates registered for dinner at Birchwood will still be served dinner. Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre</i> ▪ Mrs Graça Machel (Recorded message) International advocate for the rights of women and children Topic: <i>Welcome to Africa: message of support</i>



TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER | Opening, Keynotes and Regional Updates

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
08h30–09h00	Opening Prayer and Cultural Performance	Opening prayer, followed by a cultural performance welcoming delegates to South Africa
09h00–10h30	Official Opening Session	09h00 South African National Anthem and African Union Anthem Welcome ▪ 09h05 Archbishop Sitembele Sipuka President, South African Council of Churches (SACC); Metropolitan Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cape Town Topic: <i>Welcome to South Africa, especially to our sisters and brothers from the Diaspora and the Pacific</i> Background inputs by the Co-Convenors Topic: <i>Why AAD, why now: from the 2021 virtual AAD to a strategic moment of pushback and promise</i> ▪ 09h12 CO-CONVENOR Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith Co-Convenor, AAD Conference; President from North America–Turtle Island, World Council of Churches; Bread for the World (USA) ▪ 09h18 CO-CONVENOR Rev. Frank Chikane Co-Convenor, AAD Conference; former Moderator, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches Video (09h24–09h30) <i>Africa before slavery and colonisation; 500 years of slavery, racism and colonisation; their legacy; current efforts to end it</i> Official Opening Address ▪ 09h30 Hon. Ronald Lamola Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa Topic: <i>South Africa, Pan-African solidarity and the global fight against racism and neocolonialism</i> Messages by multilateral and international organisations (09h55–10h30) Topic: <i>Our institutions' commitments to Africans and people of African descent</i> ▪ His Holiness, The Most Rev. Dr Rufus Okikiola Ositelu (Message read on his behalf) Patriarch and Primate, The Church of the Lord (TCL) Worldwide; President of the World Council of Churches for Africa Topic: <i>Welcome Address on behalf of the Christians of Africa</i> ▪ Rev. Zwoitwaho Nevhutalu Kagiso Trust (main sponsor) Topic: <i>Message of support from Kagiso Trust</i>
10h30–11h00	Break	
11h00–12h30	Keynote Speakers	Each keynote has a 30-minute slot: 20 minutes speaking, with time for the transition.



		▪ 11h00–11h30 H.E. Thabo Mbeki Former President, Republic of South Africa Topic: <i>Africa and the African Diaspora in a changing world order: The African Renaissance revisited</i> ▪ 11h30–12h00 H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Online) Former President, Republic of Liberia Topic: <i>Africa and the African Diaspora in a changing world: Leadership, democracy and women in Africa's next chapter</i> ▪ 12h00–12h30 Rev. Dr Jerry Pillay General Secretary, World Council of Churches Topic: <i>Churches and the struggles of Africans, people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples</i>
12h30–14h00	Lunch with the African Union	<i>Lunch is served in a separate venue, shared with other guests at the conference centre; in-person participation only (no facilities for online speakers).</i> ▪ MODERATOR Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith Co-Convenor, AAD Conference; President from North America–Turtle Island, World Council of Churches; Bread for the World (USA) ▪ African Union 6th Region and in South Africa ▪ Ms Arlene Wilson Max Innovative Entrepreneurs RSA ▪ Dr Pauline Christian African Union 6th Region (Canada/Nigeria)
14h00–15h00	Keynote Addresses: Africa's Monetary and Resource Sovereignty (Plenary)	<i>Joint plenary session: two keynotes of 30 minutes each (20 minutes speaking).</i> ▪ 14h00–14h30 Prof. Yegandi Imhotep Paul Alagidede Bank of Ghana Chair in Finance and Economics, University of Ghana; Professor of Finance, Wits Business School, University of the Witwatersrand Topic: <i>From Dormant Capital to Sovereign Money: Metanomics and Africa's Monetary Sovereignty</i> ▪ 14h30–15h00 Prof. Maurice Radebe Faculty Director, Wits Commerce, Law and Management; Founder and Chairman, Unleashing Leadership Potential (ULP) Topic: <i>Leadership Imperatives for Resource Sovereignty and Africa Wealth Creation</i>
15h00–15h40	Messages by Multilateral and International Organisations	<i>Messages of about 8 minutes each; speakers drawn from different regions.</i> ▪ 15h00 Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie President and General Secretary, National Council of Churches in the USA Topic: <i>The US churches and the struggle for racial justice today</i> 15h08 Video messages from Members of the United States Congress (Congressional Black Caucus) <i>About 8 minutes in total: up to three short video messages of 2 to 3 minutes each.</i> ▪ Rep. James E. Clyburn (South Carolina), Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (New York) and Rep. Jonathan L. Jackson (Illinois) (TBC) (Video messages)



		▪ 15h16 Rev. Dr Philip Peacock General Secretary, World Communion of Reformed Churches Topic: <i>Messages of solidarity and commitment</i> ▪ 15h24 Dr Nigussu Legesse Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Topic: <i>Ethiopia, ancient faith and the Unity moment of African Peoples</i> ▪ 15h32 Rev. Dr Roderick Hewitt Onesimus Project, Council for World Mission; Professor of Systematic Theology, University of KwaZulu-Natal (Jamaica) Topic: <i>Message of solidarity from the Caribbean churches and the Council for World Mission</i>
15h40–16h00	Break	
16h00–16h30	Panel: Pan-African Congresses since 1900	▪ 16h00 Dr Michael McEachrane Member and Rapporteur, UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent Topic: <i>From the 1900 Pan-African Conference to the UN Permanent Forum: what has been achieved</i> ▪ 16h15 Prof. Dr Eddy Maloka Diplomat and academic, Wits School of Governance Topic: <i>Pan-Africanism in African foreign policy: lessons for today</i>
16h30–17h30	Regional Developments and Updates	<i>Key developments, struggles and priorities from each region: one speaker per region, about 8 minutes each, then discussion.</i> North America–Turtle Island ▪ 16h30 Rev. Sekinah Hamlin Economic Justice Minister, United Church of Christ (USA); AAD Co-Convenor for North America–Turtle Island ▪ 16h38 Rev. Dr Michael Blair (Online) General Secretary, United Church of Canada (Canada) Latin America ▪ 16h46 Ms Marilia Schuller Secretary for Racial and Gender Equality, Koinonia, Brazil Europe ▪ 16h54 Dr Dionne Gravesande (Online) Principal Adviser on Ecumenical Relations and Theology, Christian Aid (United Kingdom) Pacific ▪ 17h02 Dr Yoteni Ibu Yoteni AAD Co-Convenor for the Pacific Caribbean ▪ 17h10 Dr Gordon Cowans Churches' Reparations Action Forum, Jamaica Africa ▪ 17h18 Bishop Katononee Yonas Africa 17h26–17h30: discussion
17h30–18h00	"Doors of Return" Experience	<i>Reports from delegates who travelled through the Doors of Return in Angola, Ghana and South Africa, sharing their experiences</i>



18h00–19h00	Break	
19h00–20h00	Dinner	
20h00–21h00	Regional Breakouts	Africa (Plenary)
		Caribbean and Latin America (Breakaway Room 1)
		North America–Turtle Island, Europe and the Pacific (Breakaway Room 2)
		▪ FACILITATOR FOR EUROPE Dr Michael McEachrane Member and Rapporteur, UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent
21h00–21h15	Evening Prayer	



WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER | Keynotes, Parallel Sessions and Reparatory Justice

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
07h00–08h15	Breakfast	
08h30–09h00	Morning Prayers	
09h00–10h30	Keynote Addresses	Each keynote has a 30-minute slot: 20 minutes speaking, with time for the transition. 09h00–09h30 H.E. Rev. Prof. Dr Jean-Bertrand Aristide (Recorded statement) Former President, Republic of Haiti Topic: <i>Haiti, the first Black Republic: challenges and lessons to be learned</i> 09h30–10h00 Dr Ashwini K.P. UN Special Rapporteur on Racism Topic: <i>Global trends in racism and the return of imperial world views</i> 10h00–10h30 Rt Rev. Lydia Neshangwe President, All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC); former Moderator, Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa and Council for World Mission Topic: <i>The Church in Africa and the mission of justice, healing and reconciliation</i>
10h30–11h00	Break	
11h00–13h00	Parallel Sessions	Three parallel sessions in three rooms. Online participation is possible in the Plenary only; both breakaway rooms are in person. Delegates choose their session when registering. A. Economic and Climate Justice: Africa's Sovereignty and a Just Transition (Plenary) About 10 minutes per speaker. Speakers joining online take part in this session. Outcome: three practical commitments for the Conference Declaration. FACILITATOR Prof. Yegandi Imhotep Paul Alagidede Bank of Ghana Chair in Finance and Economics, University of Ghana; Professor of Finance, Wits Business School, University of the Witwatersrand 11h00–11h05: framing by the facilitator 11h05 Dr Amara Enyia (Online) Strategist and public policy expert Topic: <i>Policy pathways for Africa–Diaspora economic cooperation</i> 11h15 Rev. Reginald Bachus Friendship Baptist Church, Chicago Topic: <i>Faith-based economic empowerment</i> 11h25 Ms Imani Countess USA Topic: <i>Economic justice and Africa–Diaspora solidarity</i> 11h35 Mr Mithika Mwenda (TBC) Executive Director, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Kenya; former Climate Change Officer, All Africa Conference of Churches Topic: <i>Climate justice for Africa: adaptation finance, loss and damage, and the role of faith communities</i>



		▪ 11h45 Mr Amstrong Pitakaji (TBC) United Church in Solomon Islands (Pacific delegation) Topic: <i>Rising seas and the survival of Pacific peoples: faith, land and climate justice</i>
		▪ 11h55 Caribbean climate voice (TBC) Caribbean delegation Topic: <i>Hurricanes, debt and recovery: climate justice for the Caribbean</i>
		▪ 12h05 Dr Pheladi Mohlala Climate change adaptation and policy specialist; Coordinator, ULP Women in Energy, Unleashing Leadership Potential (ULP) Topic: <i>From risk to resilience: women, science and partnerships for a just energy transition in Africa</i>
		▪ 12h15 Prof. Lourdes de Agapito Vicente (TBC) Computer scientist and academic Topic: <i>AI and data for climate action</i> 12h25–13h00: moderated discussion and agreement on the session's commitments
		B. Decoloniality, Racism, Gender Justice and Human Rights; Report from the Women's Pre-Conference (Breakaway Room 1) Four inputs of about 10 minutes each, then the Report from the Women's Pre-Conference and the presentation of the Women's Declaration, then discussion. In person.
		▪ MODERATOR (11H00–11H40) AND RAPPORTEUR Rev. Marvia Lawes WCC Reference Group on Racism and Xenophobia; WCC Working Group on Reparations and Restorative Justice (Jamaica)
		▪ 11h00 Dr Rekgotsofetse Chikane Senior Lecturer, Wits School of Governance Topic: <i>Decolonising governance and knowledge in post-colonial Africa</i>
		▪ 11h10 Ms Vera Beatriz Rodrigues Soares FIOCRUZ; National Policy for the Integral Health of the Black Population, Brazil Topic: <i>Health equity for Black populations: Brazil's national policy</i>
		▪ 11h20 Dr Masiwa Ragies Gunda Programme Executive, Overcoming Racism, Xenophobia and Related Discrimination, World Council of Churches Topic: <i>Overcoming racism and xenophobia: the ecumenical response</i>
		▪ 11h30 Rev. Dr Velda Love Minister for Racial Justice, United Church of Christ Topic: <i>Racial justice in the Church: confronting imperial theology</i>
		11h40–13h00 Racism, Gender Justice and Human Rights: Report from the Women's Pre-Conference
		▪ MODERATOR Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith AAD Co-Convenor
		▪ 11h40 Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie President and General Secretary, National Council of Churches in the USA Topic: <i>Moderator's Report: overview of the Women's Pre-Conference (10 minutes)</i>



		▪ 11h50 Rev. Rochelle Andrews and Rev. Storia Seitisho PAWEEN/PAW; South African Council of Churches Topic: <i>The journey to the Women's Pre-Conference (10 minutes: 5 minutes each)</i>
		▪ 12h00 Ms Esther Souza Brazil Topic: <i>The rationale of the Women's Pre-Conference and the Declaration (10 minutes)</i>
		▪ 12h10 Dr Pauline Christian African Union 6th Region (Canada/Nigeria) Topic: <i>Women's Pre-Conference summation (10 minutes)</i>
		▪ 12h20 Ms Esther Souza and Dr Pauline Christian Topic: <i>Presentation of the Women's Declaration (10 minutes, PowerPoint)</i> 12h30–13h00: Q&A and discussion: the Declaration
		C. Culture, Identity and Liberating Forms of Spirituality (Breakaway Room 2) About 15 minutes per speaker, followed by discussion. In person.
		▪ MODERATOR Rev. Dr Tyrone S. Pitts General Secretary Emeritus, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC), USA
		▪ 11h00 Rev. Dr Barney Pityana Former Vice-Chancellor, UNISA; theologian and human rights lawyer Topic: <i>Black Consciousness, faith and identity</i>
		▪ 11h15 Rev. Sekinah Hamlin Economic Justice Minister, United Church of Christ (USA) Topic: <i>Spirituality and economic justice</i>
		▪ 11h30 Dr Selenir Corrêa Gonçalves Kronbauer Professor, Faculdades EST, São Leopoldo, Brazil Topic: <i>Afro-Brazilian identity, religion, and racial and gender equality</i>
		▪ 11h45 Dr Alvin Love National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Topic: <i>Faith, identity and the prophetic witness of the Black Church</i>
13h00–14h00	Lunch hosted by the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and the UN Special Rapporteur on Racism	▪ 12h00 Rev. Dr Bentley de Bardelaben-Phillips Minister and Team Leader, Education for Faithful Action Ministries, United Church of Christ (USA) Topic: <i>Liberating forms of worship and spirituality in the Diaspora</i>
		▪ Conversation on the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD), alongside conversations about the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD).
		▪ Dr Barbara Reynolds Chairperson, UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD)
		▪ Dr Ashwini K.P. UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism
		▪ Dr Michael McEachrane Member and Rapporteur, UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD)



14h00–15h15	Reparatory Justice: Keynote Speakers (Plenary Panel)	▪ MODERATOR Dr Michael McEachrane Member and Rapporteur, UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent <i>Three keynote speakers in plenary, presented as a panel: about 20 minutes each. Two join online.</i>
		▪ 14h00 Ambassador David Comissiong (Online) Ambassador of Barbados to CARICOM, representing the Caribbean on behalf of Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley Topic: <i>A message and perspective on reparations from Barbados and CARICOM</i>
		▪ 14h20 Prof. Adekeye Adebajo Senior Research Fellow, Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria Topic: <i>Africa's case for reparations: history and strategy</i>
		▪ 14h40 Dr Panashe Chigumadzi (Online) Assistant Professor of African History, Brandeis University; expert who assisted in developing the AU Framework for Reparations (March 2026) Topic: <i>The AU Framework for Reparations: from framework to action</i> <i>15h00–15h15: questions and transition</i>
15h15–15h30	Break	
15h30–17h00	Panel Discussion on Reparations	▪ MODERATOR Dr Gordon Cowans Churches' Reparations Action Forum, Jamaica <i>About 20 minutes per panellist, a short video message, then open discussion from 16h15.</i>
		▪ 15h30 Prof. Justin Hansford (Online) Professor of Law, Howard University; UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (2022–2024) Topic: <i>Legal pathways to reparations</i>
		▪ 15h50 Prof. Anne C. Bailey (Online) Professor of History; Director, Harriet Tubman Center for Freedom and Equity, Binghamton University (USA) Topic: <i>Memory, history and the case for repair: from the slave auction block to reparations</i>
		▪ 16h10 Dr Nkechi Taifa (Video message) Attorney, author and reparations advocate; Reparation Education Project (USA) Topic: <i>Message on reparatory justice</i> <i>16h15–17h00: open discussion and closing prayer</i>
17h00–17h30	Day programme ends	<i>Delegates prepare for the evening</i>
17h30 onwards	Storytelling Dinner (optional)	<i>Shuttles depart from 17h30 to the dinner venue. Paid; registration required.</i>



THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER | Future of Africa and the Diaspora, Indigenous Peoples, Way Forward and Youth

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
07h00–08h15	Breakfast	
08h15–08h30	Morning Prayers	
08h30–10h30	Panel on the Future of Africa and the African Diaspora	20 minutes per speaker, then discussion from 09h50. 08h30 Mr Joel Netshitenzhe (TBC) Executive Director, Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) Topic: <i>The African Renaissance and Africa's next 50 years</i> 08h50 African Union Agenda 2063 Topic: <i>Agenda 2063: progress and the role of the Diaspora as the 6th Region</i> 09h10 Rev. Dr Cleusa Caldeira Professor, Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Campinas (PUC-Campinas), Brazil Topic: <i>Women shaping the future of Africa and the Diaspora: the Women's Pre-Conference and its Declaration</i> 09h30 Dr Chammah J. Kaunda (Online) Research Associate, Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide; Academic Dean, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (Zambia) Topic: <i>The future of Africa: faith, decoloniality and the next generation of African thought</i>
10h30–11h00	Break	
11h00–12h30	State of Indigenous Peoples and Genocide	About 10 minutes per speaker, then discussion from 11h50. Pacific voices Topic: <i>West Papua and Pacific Indigenous struggles for self-determination</i> 11h00–11h20 Dr Yoteni Ibu Yoteni AAD Co-Convenor for the Pacific African Indigenous knowledge 11h20 Dr Mutale Mulenga Kaunda (Online) Research Tutor, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (England/Zambia) Topic: <i>Indigenous scholarship: African Indigenous knowledge, women's agency and cultural systems</i> Intersection of Black and Indigenous oppression 11h30 Rev. Dr Michael Blair (Online) General Secretary, United Church of Canada Topic: <i>Intersections of Black and Indigenous oppression, and building coalitions</i> Palestinians as victims of occupation and genocide 11h40 Rev. Dr Fadi Diab (Online) Kairos Palestine; Rector, St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ramallah, and St Peter's Episcopal Church, Birzeit; co-author of the Kairos Palestine documents Topic: <i>Palestine: occupation, genocide and global solidarity</i> 11h50–12h30: discussion



12h30–14h00	Lunch	
14h00–17h30	Plenary Reports and Way Forward	
17h30–19h00	Youth and Young Adult Panel	About 10 minutes per panellist, then discussion from 18h30. ▪ 17h30 Young person from the AACC Youth Conference (TBC) Topic: <i>African youth and the future of the Church</i> ▪ 17h40 Mr Miles Henderson Young Adult Co-Convener, International Civil Society Working Group for the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent Topic: <i>Young adults and the UN Permanent Forum agenda</i> ▪ 17h50 Mr Ousman Touray (Online) Pan-Africanist and founder, Visionary Pathways (The Gambia) Topic: <i>Youth entrepreneurship and Pan-African trade</i> ▪ 18h00 Ms Ngimou Victorine Nchokuno (Online) Cameroon Topic: <i>Young African women and the Pan-African future</i> ▪ 18h10 Young South African speaker (TBC) Topic: <i>Young South Africans and the future of the Church and society</i> ▪ 18h20 Brother Rafael Brito Brazil (MNE Brasil) Topic: <i>Young Afro-Brazilian voices: faith, identity and activism</i> 18h30–19h00: discussion; the panel's priorities are passed to the Declaration drafting team
19h00–19h15	Evening Prayer	
19h15–21h00	Declaration Drafting (with dinner)	Regional leadership and Executive Team prepare the final draft for the Friday 09h00 session



FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER | Declaration and Closing

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
07h00-08h15	Breakfast	
08h30-09h00	Morning Prayer	
09h00-10h30	Closing Business	▪ Action Plans
		▪ The way forward and mechanism to take the AAD into the future
		▪ Conference Declaration
10h30-11h00	Break	
11h00-12h30	Closing Ceremony with Prayers	
12h30	Departures	



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