FECLLAHA Holds the 15th General Assembly and the Regional Ecumenical Forum 2019

The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECLLAHA) held the Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF) on 24th and 25th October, 2019 in Addis Ababa–Ethiopia.

In attendance were leaders of FECLLAHA member councils and churches including women and youth representatives. Also present were representatives from partner organisations.

The REF, held every two years, is a key mechanism that provides safe space for FECLLAHA members to reflect and focus on common issues of concern affecting the region. It also offers a strategic opportunity for members to share ideas, discuss challenges, re-strategize, and renew their commitment and passion for the mission of FECLLAHA.

The 2019 forum guided by the theme “Journeying towards Sustainable Peace, Justice and development” provided space for reflection and envisioning the FECLLAHA we want. (continues on page 2)
The entire membership of the Regional Ecumenical Forum, represented by National Councils of Churches and Churches under the auspices of FECCLAHA resolved to:

Facilitate the establishment of a regional church think tank to catalyse the prophetic voice and the pastoral obligation of the church as regards accountable political governance ; to develop long term engagement strategies with electoral processes in the region for example regular context analysis; to consider and facilitate the implementation of the voices of the youth and the women as expressed during the General Assembly.

Other resolutions were: to strengthen Christian identity among young people, put in place a regional senior church leaders platform to ensure timely engagements with political leaders on issues affecting the region and to establish a short term strategic focus and engagements on South Sudan, Eastern DRC as well as Burundi.

All the National Councils of Churches and Churches through their General/Executive Secretaries appended their signatures to the resolution dated 25th October 2019 as a sign of their commitment towards the advancement of the spirit of ecumenism and in the vision of Africa Churches for life peace, justice and dignity. The next REF will be held in the year 2022.

FECCCLAHA 15th General Assembly (GA)
FECCCLAHA held its 15th General Assembly hosted by the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in Addis Ababa Ethiopia on the 23rd October, 2019.

There was a change of leadership with the incoming chairperson of FECCCLAHA being Rev. Dr. Samuel Rugambage , General Secretary of the Protestant Council of Rwanda, and a Vice Chairperson FR. William Deng Biong (General secretary of Sudan Council of Churches).

The duo, in accordance with the Constitution of succeed Bishop Jean-Luc Kuye Ndondo wa Mulemera (President of the Church of Christ in Congo) and Rev. Bereket Kidame Eyasu(Head of Foreign Relationship in the Patriarchate–Eritrea Orthodox Tewahdo Church), who respectively served as the Chairperson and the Vice-chairperson of FECCCLAHA for two years.
FECCLAHA launches its 2019-2023 Strategic Plan

FECCLAHA launched its strategic plan 2019-2023 on 25th October, 2019 in Addis Ababa-Ethiopia. Present during the launch were FECCLAHA members and partners.

The Strategic plan, has its five year priority focus on: Peace building and Conflict Transformation, Governance and Accountability, Gender justice and, Institution Strengthening and Capacity Building.

It was commissioned by Rev. Yonas Yigezu, president of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus alongside FECCLAHA’s outgoing chairperson Bishop Jean-Luc Kuye Ndondo wa Mulemera during the Regional Ecumenical Forum 2019, held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

Peace Building and Conflict Transformation

1. FECCLAHA marks the International Peace Day 2019

To commemorate the International Day Of Peace, on the 21st of September 2019, FECCLAHA in collaboration with five Youth Peace Clubs in Mukuru, an informal settlement in Kenya’s capital, Nairobi engaged pupils from five different primary schools in understanding the effect of climate change and the importance of peace.

The exercise dubbed "Adopt a tree for peace" saw both the pupils and peace club members plant a tree each. Tree planting began on 20th September 2019, in five different schools and later ended at the Nairobi City Grounds where a total of 70 trees were planted, the exercise was graced by FECCLAHA represented by the Programme Officer for Peace, Nicholas Amito together with Herman Azangu, a Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Viwandani, one of the Wards in Nairobi-Kenya.

FECCLAHA remains seized with the matter of promoting sustainable peace in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa.

A major achievement has been the inclusion of a Regional Youth Peace Programme in which the youth in their respective Peace Clubs are empowered and trained as trainers on matters peace building and conflict transformation.

Currently, there are more than 215 YPCs with a membership of more that 10,000 youth spread across 10 countries; Burundi, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.
FECCLAHA continues to train the youth not only on matters peace but on how to major on their numbers as peace club members through trainings on entrepreneurship.

Last year, to mark this very day, FECCLAHA organised a peace walk in Nairobi Kenya that involved sending out of peace messages and advocacy for sustainable peace.

Conflict resolution and Mediation training for Faith Women

FECCLAHA in collaboration with the Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR), organised a 3 day training of Rwanda Faith Women Peace Mediators (RFWPM).

The training held from 25th to 27th September 2019, brought together 29 participants drawn from CPR member churches across the country and those from Muslim community in Rwanda.

The 3 day training, which is among a series of other trainings that CPR will undertake, is aimed at equipping these faith women with skills and knowledge on conflict analysis, conflict mapping, mediation, advocacy and lobbying thus enabling them to have practical analysis of cases of conflict so as to enhance their professionalism in mediation and conflict transformation.

Through the training, the Rwanda Faith Women Peace Mediators (RFWPM) Network, a platform to brainstorm, strategize and plan on peace interventions and initiatives, was established.

Additionally, this created spaces for interaction, information/experience sharing as well as networking.

FECCLAHA, continues to build the capacity of individuals and groups of people across the region, in a bid to transform them into peace ambassadors, hence fostering a peaceful continent and the world at large.

FECCLAHA @ 20

“Journeying towards Sustainable Peace, Justice and Development”
Senior church leaders from Kenya, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan and South Sudan trained on mediation, negotiation and conflict management in the Great lakes and Horn of Africa in Nairobi– Kenya on the 29th of July , 2019.

The training was organized by FECCLAHA in collaboration with Africa Centre for the Constructive Resolution of disputes (ACCORD), to equip the church leaders with skills on mediation, conflict analysis and conflict mapping, all essential as they carry on with their work on peace building and the transformation of conflicts.

Mrs. Allison Lazarus of ACCORD took the leaders through a comprehensive training on the dynamics of conflict and peace, styles of conflict resolution, gender and peace, mediation skills and process, early warning signs and preventive measures of conflicts, and gender and peace.

Participants were issued with certificates and urged to be role models in creating awareness, peace building and conflict transformation back in their countries of origin. Also asked to keep in touch with each other after the training so as to take advantage of the network already created.

3. FECCLAHA YOUTH PEACE ADVOCACY CARAVAN

In pursuit of peace, FECCLAHA in collaboration with National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), Mukuru Slums Development Projects (MSDP), The Superb, a Community Based Organization and Youth Peace Clubs, organized three parallel youth peace caravans in Kibera, Kisumu and Eldoret, aimed at peace advocacy before, during and after elections.

In Kibera, one of the informal settlements in Kenya’s capital Nairobi, the procession began with an assembly at Kamukunji area where the youth were briefed on the purpose of the event as well as their role in the realization of peace through advocacy.

This was followed by peaceful walk that ended with a public forum at the District Commissioner’s Headquarter Grounds where the public was sensitized through skits against the misuse by politicians to cause violence.
FECLAHHA remains seized on peace advocacy and therefore will continue to engage the youth through the regional Youth Peace and other like minded organizations in sensitizing the youth against involvement in any kind of violence, create awareness on youth participation in peace processes and provide platforms where the youth a can dialogue and meditate on future conflict interventions.

**FECLAHHA @ 20**

"Journeying towards Sustainable Peace, Justice and Development"

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### Training on Arms Trade Treaty

The participants were also taken through a situational analysis of SALWs; why it is important, the cost of armed conflicts, the Nairobi Protocol, countering illegal arms flow through regional cooperation by the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA) and gender dimensions on SALWs.

Participants having gone through the training were tasked with coming up with advocacy and lobby plans for the ratification of ATT, a multilateral treaty that regulates the international trade in conventional weapons, at local, national and regional levels, the target groups, the planned activities, partners or key stakeholders as well as the frequency of plan execution.

FECLAHHA remains concerned with and engages in countering the proliferation of illegal SALWs and in response has established the SALW programme where it discharges capacity building trainings, workshops, awareness creation, advocacy and information sharing at community, national and regional levels.

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Religious leaders drawn from Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan trained on matters Arms trade Treaty (ATT) in Nairobi Kenya.

The training organized by FECLAHHA involved expert presentations to help the religious leaders best understand ATT, Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) and the African Union Strategy on Silencing the gun by 2020, thereby laying bare the entry points for the church to intervene in.

This was informed by the findings of a baseline survey by FECLAHHA on SALW 2014 and 2015 indicating the different levels countries are in terms of the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on SALWs.
Capacity Building & Institution Strengthening

FECCCLAHA Staff Trained on Resource Mobilization

FECCCLAHA Secretariat staff were taken through a five day in-house training on Resource Mobilization and Networking.

The training was conducted by Mr. Evans Isaboke, a Management Consultant at CORAT-Africa, who took the staff through project management cycle resource mobilization cycle and resource mobilization strategy amongst others.

The training was supported by Bread for the World, a FECCCLAHA partner with a view of enabling FECCCLAHA to strengthen its efforts towards the diversification of its resource base.

Governance and Accountability

Training on Business and Human Rights

FECCCLAHA in collaboration with Act Church of Sweden and Swedwatch train participants from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, DRC-Congo, Sudan and South Sudan on Business and Human Rights on the 6th November 2019.

The three day training which targeted Civil Society organizations aimed at equipping the participants with skills, knowledge and building their capacity on research, interviews and how best to present their findings on human rights violation by businesses, what things the Civil Society can do to meet Business and Human Rights as well as hold companies to account and how the government is responding to business and human rights challenges.
Gender Justice

Regional Gender Forum 2019

The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECLAH) in partnership with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region -Regional Training Facility on the Prevention and Suppression of SGBV (ICGLR-RTF) organised a Regional Gender Forum held on the 21st and 22nd October 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The forum brought together 11 women representatives and 11 youth representatives drawn from FECLAH member councils and churches from Burundi, DRC Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The participants were trained on the entry points which National Councils of Churches can use in addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV), monitoring, documentation, reporting and early warning signs of SGBV.

Through experience sharing and group sessions, participants also had discussions on the trends of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) with cyber harassment identified as an emerging trend in SGBV.

Participants also shared their action plans with regards to monitoring, documenting and reporting of SGBV.

From the forum, was a joint statement which was later presented to the General Assembly. In the statement, the participants committed to amongst others: strengthen their monitoring, documentation, reporting and early warning signs of SGBV in all their initiatives by using the data collection tool documented in the baseline survey by FECLAH and ICGLR-RTF, link SGBV in the outgoing peace building initiatives of the FECLAH youth Peace Clubs in the region, in churches and national councils of churches.

They also urged church leaders to denounce SGBV by practising and incorporating SGBV sensitization in Sunday preaching themes/ annual church calendars.

FECLAH @ 20

"Journeying towards Sustainable Peace, Justice and Development"
ECCLAHA organized a three day training for religious leaders, both from the Islamic and Christian faiths, on gender mainstreaming in peace building and conflict transformation and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, in Nairobi-Kenya.

The religious leaders, drawn from Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda were engaged in interactive expert presentations, discussions, group work and planning sessions with a view of enhancing their knowledge and understanding on gender mainstreaming in peace building and conflict transformation and to equip them with knowledge on UNSCR 1325.

The UNSCR 1325, an approach to promote the participation of women in peace building processes, also sets up important institutions that ensures the protection of women from all forms of GBV.

FECCCLAHA remains keen in addressing the issue of limited participation of women in peace processes and has since: established a Regional Women Peace building Programme, that seeks to address the factors that has seen over 80 women trained and their capacities enhanced and commissioned to engage in peace and advocacy work in the region.
Fecclaha in collaboration with Youth Peace Clubs in Mukuru, Kenya organized a youth forum to commemorate this year’s International Youth Day, held on the 12th of August at Sinai Reli social Hall, Mukuru, Kenya.

This year’s celebration dubbed “Transforming education” highlighted the efforts to make education more relevant, equitable and inclusive for all youth including efforts by youth themselves.

Present, were: Benazir Mohamed the director of Silverlining Kenya, Samuel Odhiambo-FECCLAHA Peace Ambassador, Joyce Kamau Peace ambassador Kenya and Maja founder of Soaring Together in Kenya and Uganda.

Also in attendance were the Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Viwandani Ward (one of the wards in Nairobi County) and three representatives from FECCLAHA.

The four formed a panel that helped answer to and lead the participants on discussions around the history and the relevance of the day to the youth.

This year’s celebration sought to encourage young people to acquire skills and seize any opportunity that comes their way.
South Sudan General Assembly

FECCLAHA participated in the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) General Assembly that took place in August 2019, from 27th to 29th, at the Good Shepherd Peace Centre, Kit-South Sudan.

The three day Assembly with the theme “The Power to Forgive”, drawn from Matthew 6:12, saw delegates from SSCC member churches, partner organizations, and other key ecumenical partners in the region attend.

In addition to listening to the progress report from various organs, the assembly also involved elections of new leadership of the SSCC and a partners’ meeting.

The Action Plan for Peace continues to be the key guiding document for the SSCC engagements in the country, considering the fragile state of the South Sudan nation on matters peace.

FECLLAHA Wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

FECLLAHA Breaks for Christmas, the FECLLAHA office therefore will officially close and reopen on 7th January 2020. We thank you for the continued support.
(1.) (From Left) FECLLAHA’s Executive Director, Jeannette Uwizeye, Bishop Jean-Luc Kaye Ndando wa Mulemura, the outgoing chairperson of FECLLAHA and Rev. Tesheko Amenu, General Secretary of the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus during the official opening of the REF on 24th October 2019 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

(2.) Rev Fr. Archmandrite Constantine Mbonabingi, the Executive Secretary of the Uganda Joint Christian Council appends his signature to the REF resolutions as the outgoing chairperson of FECLLAHA, Bishop Jean-Luc Kaye Ndando wa Mulemura, looks on during the REF 2019, Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

(3.) FECLLAHA’s outgoing Vice-Chairperson Rev. Bereket Kidame (Left) and incoming Vice-Chairperson, Fr. William Biond Deng (Right) embrace in an official handover, during the REF held on the 25th October Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

(4.) FECLLAHA partners who participated in the Regional Ecumenical Forum, 15th General Assembly held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia in October 2019.

(5.) Bishop Dr. Zac Niringiye of the Church of Uganda takes the participants of the 2019 REF through biblical reflection on the role of the church in promoting good political governance.

(6.) FECLLAHA’s first chairperson Rev. Hon. Mutava Musyimi (1st left), first Vice-chairperson Bishop Marini Bodho (1st right) alongside former Chairperson Rev. Canon Grace Kaiso and Former Executive of FECLLAHA, Elizabeth Zimba Kisiigha share reflections on FECLLAHA during the REF 2019.
**OUR VISION:**
Together for justice, sustainable peace and development

**Core Values:**
- Human Dignity: Gen. 1:26
- Compassion: Micah 6:8
- Peace: Matthew 5:5-8
- Justice: Isaiah 1:16-18
- Integrity: Proverbs 11:3
- Ecumenism: John 17:21

**Mission:**
To promote ecumenical solidarity for justice, peace, healing and conflict transformation and reconciliation in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa through advocacy, networking and partnership, capacity building, research and documentation within the framework of holistic Christian Ministry.

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**Publications**

- Youth Peace Clubs Workbook
- Tamar Campaign: Contextual Bible Study Manual and Sermon Outlines on Gender Based Violence and Peace

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**FECCCLAHA is a member of actalliance**

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