

DECLARATION OF THE 4TH AFRICAN ROUNDTABLE

August 21 to 25, 2023 at Kigali, Rwanda

We, the 236 residential participants of Africa Roundtable 4, came from thirty African countries and seven other countries to fellowship in Christ, and to listen, learn and dialogue in the interests of crafting a response to the ACSI 2023 Roundtable theme: Envisioning the Church and Christian education together for Africa 2050.

1. About Christian Education

Church leaders and leaders in education declare that, on returning to our regions, we will seek to:

- 1.1. Inspire and equip the vision and mission of the Church, families, and schools for their ministry of educating Africa's sons and daughters in the spirit of Psalm 78.
- 1.2. Provide printed, online, and other accessible culturally relevant resources that enable the Church, families, and schools to:
 - 1.2.1. Understand and implement foundational practices for holistic Christ-centred education, specifically through biblical worldview integration.
 - 1.2.2. Provide training in Christian education to parents and church leaders, as well as in seminaries and tertiary institutions.
 - 1.2.3. Provide Sunday and weekday school curricula.
 - 1.2.4. Quality assure Christian education through certified standards.
- 1.3. Exhort and equip the Church to:
 - 1.3.1. Invest in starting new schools that practice Christian education.
 - 1.3.2. Take ownership of the practice of Christian education in all their schools.
 - 1.3.3. Recruit and properly care for Christian school leaders and teachers.
 - 1.3.4. Advocate for the rights and responsibilities of religious freedom for Christian education.

Other ideas for complementary church, family and school actions included: African home-schooling curriculum, alumni testimonies, outreach to less-resourced schools, and affiliation with national Christian school associations.

2. About Leadership

Church leaders and leaders in education declare that, on return to our regions, we will seek to recruit and train Christ-centred leaders who love the sons and daughters of Africa. Such training should, where relevant, be certified according to recognised standards. We will seek to qualify such leadership with evidence of the following criteria:

- 2.1. Spiritual criteria:
 - 2.1.1. Be a living testimony of knowledge, competence, and character, which demonstrates wisdom in transformational leadership.

- 2.1.2. Exhibit the qualities of a biblical elder. Such leaders should be ethical, impartial, humble, approachable, accessible, people of prayer and of peace, effective communicators, and advocates for biblical values.
- 2.2. Organisational criteria:
 - 2.2.1. Be able to work with statutory and fiduciary regulations.
 - 2.2.2. Shape the culture of the church and the school, and as a result the lives of sons and daughters, through a living translation of the organisation's vision, mission, and core values.
- 2.3. Social criteria:
 - 2.3.1. Advocate for freedom of speech, while promoting and protecting Christian values.
 - 2.3.2. Demonstrate respectful collaboration with leaders from all facets of society, such as traditional and civic leaders, for transformation through biblical truths.
 - 2.3.3. Set an example of integrity by being a role model who, through calling, is present and active in the community.
 - 2.3.4. Understand the times in which we live, along with the challenges to Christian education, while bringing forth the identity of the church and school in a transformative manner, without dualism.
 - 2.3.5. Facilitate the development of curricula that prepare sons and daughters for their valued economic contribution to society in practices such as entrepreneurship and technology.

3. About Church, School, and Family

Church leaders and leaders in education declare that considering the spirit of the age which challenges the image of God, along with socio-economic and environmental conditions, the use of technology, and the challenges to family relationships, we will seek to:

- 3.1. Promote a unique structure with complementary roles amongst church, family, and school to disciple our sons and daughters, with prayer as the foundation.
- 3.2. Unite in promoting church, family, and school unity by sharing information, and collaborating to promote healthy role models and activities for youth participation.
- 3.3. Collectively advocate for religious freedoms and Christian values.
- 3.4. Be actively present in the lives of our sons and daughters, by encouraging them to engage in mutually respectful conversations.
- 3.5. Engage in age-appropriate discussions with our children relevant to the topical issues of the day, such as climate change, social media, various vices, human sexuality, and gender.
- 3.6. Provide resources to train parents in the knowledge and practices of a Christian family.
- 3.7. Promote learning and practices about the above actions in seminaries and teacher training programmes.