



### DECLARATION 2012 OF THE AFRICA ROUNDTABLE 2, AT JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

#### The Contribution of Christian Education to the Transformation of Africa

First, we express our thanks to God for what has been accomplished at the Africa Roundtable 2, held on 12 - 17 August 2012 at Willow Park Conference Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa. We have sought to use our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and our commitment to the authority of the Word of God, the Bible, to help us in our deliberations under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

Second, we express our gratitude to the Association of Christian Schools International Africa based in Johannesburg, South Africa, for organising and hosting this historic roundtable and to ACSI Headquarters in Colorado Springs, USA, for their support of this roundtable. Africa Roundtable 2 was a gathering of 140 educators and community leaders from 35 nations.

Whereas in His earthly ministry the Lord Jesus placed great value on children, we commit ourselves to follow His example by recognizing that every child is created in God's image and is precious in His sight. We commit ourselves to ensure that children from all cultures and in every country of Africa receive respect without discrimination—irrespective of race, colour, gender, language, religion, or social status—and have the right to be nurtured to reach their full potential in Christ. Furthermore, we commit to promote a Christ-centred pedagogy to the benefit of the child.

Whereas it will require great collaborative effort to achieve the transformational change agents identified in this document, we resolve that we will lay aside our personal and corporate (church, denomination, and so on) agendas to embrace one another in unity under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

To this end, this conference statement is intended to further advance the declaration of the Africa Roundtable 1. We, the delegates of Africa Roundtable 2, sign this conference statement as a symbol of our commitment to initiate and / or support strategic transformative action on a local, regional and continent level for:

- 1. **SPIRITUAL FORMATION** resulting from an enabling of God's Spirit and leading to Christ-likeness by means of:
  - a. Prayer structures
  - b. Modules that enable the spiritual formation of:
    - i. All school staff, with special emphasis on teachers
    - ii. Present and future school Chaplains / Pastors
    - iii. Parents
  - c. In the spirit of 2 Timothy 2:2, Christian teachers & school leaders who:
    - i. Have a testimony of personal faith in Christ
    - ii. Sign and uphold a statement of faith as integral to their contractual obligations
    - iii. Participate in course-work to improve their understanding of God's written word
    - iv. Participate in a peer discipling programme with other teachers and / or school leaders
    - v. Participate in appraisal of their role in the spiritual formation of the students



- d. Challenging / mobilising the Christian community, notably local church leaders to the value of Christian education
- e. Enabling / discipling students to participate in evangelistic and other mission activity
- f. Discourse that expresses God's Word, is spiritually progressive and regularly expressed through practices within lessons, and in activities such as devotions and Chapel
- g. Annual ongoing review of whole school spiritual formation
- h. A Bible based approach to governance, instruction, curriculum and administration

#### 2. **BIBLICALLY INTEGRATED CURRICULUM** by means of:

- a. Evidence of a biblical worldview in teaching and learning (pedagogy) in all subjects and whole school policies and procedures
- b. Clear curriculum outcomes (goals), e.g. citizenship and life-skills
- c. Development of and access to supporting resources
- d. Local, regional and continental structures for the enabling of biblically integrated curriculum
- e. Information and Communications Technology

#### 3. **ACCREDITATION** by means of:

- a. A comprehensive published process that includes:
  - i. A progressively rated approach from minimum standards to full accreditation
  - ii. Rubric showing these progressive levels of accreditation
  - iii. Criteria and protocols relevant to Africa
  - iv. Manuals for internal and external review (this means for teams within the school to do self-assessment and for teams that would conduct the visits for accountability/approval)
- b. Training of school governance and staff in the accreditation criteria and process for whole school improvement
- c. Supporting regional, continental and international structures

#### 4. **POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE** by means of:

- a. Regular review of the observable practices of a school's mission, vision and core value statements
- b. Counter-cultural influence

#### 5. **GOOD GOVERNANCE** by means of:

- a. Board governance resulting in:
  - i. Operational alignment with Board ends
  - ii. Leadership selection
  - iii. Role clarity between governmental and operational leadership
- b. Board Training



- c. School management that has comprehensive Policy and Procedure documents, including Codes of Conduct
- d. Student participation at an appropriate level

#### 6. **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** by means of:

- a. Budgeting financial resources
- b. Exchange programmes
- c. Collaboration of Institutions at a Regional and International level
- d. Database of providers
- e. Promoting the dignity of the educator as a professional through:
  - i. Career planning
  - ii. Scholarships / Grants for further study
  - iii. HR policy that provides for meaningful welfare and security
  - iv. Holistic continuous development
- f. Quality assuring improved competency as a result of professional development
- g. Specialist training to enhance Christian School delivery, e.g. special needs and counselling psychologists
- 7. **DEVELOPING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS** with the likes of parents, Church, State, Alumni & Business Community by means of:
  - a. The Spirit of Romans 12:13 & Ecclesiastes 4: 9 10
    - i. Hospitality
    - ii. Support
    - iii. Culture of institutional openness
  - b. Cultivating positive working relationships through:
    - i. Proactive communications such as newsletters, phone-calls and emails
    - ii. Assistance
    - iii. Membership of advocacy groups
    - iv. Memoranda of Understanding that outline mutual expectations, needs and promises
    - v. Promoting excellence
    - vi. Annual calendar events
  - c. Special engagement with church denominational leadership
- 8. **PRAYER COVERING** by means of:
  - a. Local, regional and international Intercessory Teams
  - b. Communications structure
  - c. Use of inspirationally educational resources for the promotion of prayer
  - d. Calendar scheduled special prayer days at a local, regional and international level
  - e. Focus on needs, thanksgiving and salvation



### 9. **INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TERTIARY EDUCATION FACULTIES** by means of:

- a. Making publically available:
  - i. ACSI generic standards that quality assure core content and delivery
  - ii. A database of existing institutions
- b. Involving Churches by:
  - i. Communicating the information from point 9.a
  - ii. Encouraging and, where possible, supporting denominational initiative

#### 10. **INCREASING RELEVANT POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH** by means of:

- a. Scholarship funds for a complete degree or research programme
- b. The granting of funds on the basis of discerning award criteria
- c. Promoting a culture of study amongst educators through:
  - i. Career planning
  - ii. Employer support structures
  - iii. Upholding the value of research as part of a biblical worldview
  - iv. A focus on new knowledge and skill that promotes excellence
- d. Making research relevant to African transformation through:
  - i. A reference list of:
    - 1. Published African research papers
    - 2. Academics available for supervision and assessment
  - ii. International collaboration
  - iii. A focus on research topics that promote African transformation through Christian education

The content of this document has been worked through, approved, and signed on 17 August 2012 by delegates from the 35 countries represented at the Africa Roundtable 2. The original document with signatures is archived at the ACSI Africa office, Johannesburg.



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