



UGANDA JOINT CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

Resolutions of the General Assembly of Uganda Joint Christian 2014

Preamble

We, the Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy and the Laity from member churches of Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), namely the Church of Uganda, the Roman Catholic Church and the Uganda Orthodox Church meeting in this General Assembly of UJCC held at Pope Paul Memorial Hotel from 29-30 May, 2014 under the theme *You are the Salt and light of the world* (Mathew 5.13-16),

Considering that ecumenism is an important vehicle for fostering unity and harmony among the member churches of the Council,

Mindful of the fact that ecumenism is still weak at the grassroots,

Appreciating the contribution of Universal Primary Education towards increased enrolment of pupils in primary schools,

Concerned about poor quality of education which is characterised by low literacy and numeracy skills and poor school completion rate,

Considering that inadequate funding of the education sector by the Government and laxity by parents in fulfilling their duties are the main contributory factors to poor learning,

Considering that that inadequate funding of the health sector is the main cause of shortage of personnel, drugs and medical facilities which are affecting service delivery in all parts of the country,

Considering the importance of the National Identity Card Project which was launched by the Government in April, 2014 and taking into account that no person will be able to vote in the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local

Government Elections in 2016 unless he or she is registered under the National ID Project,

Concerned about the lack of an enabling legislation on the ID Project,

Mindful of the need for a level political playing field as a basis for free, fair and credible General Elections in 2016,

Considering that UJCC and other stakeholders have been advocating for a National Peace Policy and the urgency for such a policy which would serve as a blueprint for peaceful resolution of conflicts,

Considering the need for a mechanism for addressing internal conflicts involving member churches over school foundation bodies,

Considering the ever growing needs of communities in various parts of the Uganda for various services that are being provided by UJCC,

Noting that the bulk of funds for running the programmes and activities of the Council come from the donor community,

Further noting that all financial support by development partners will be tied to projects as opposed to core funding beginning in 2015 and the implications this will have on the capacity of the Council to discharge its mandate,

Noting with appreciation efforts that are being taken by UJCC Secretariat to address the issues of financial sustainability,

Do hereby adopt the following resolutions:

1. On Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Dialogue

The Assembly-

1. Underscores the need for investment of sufficient resources in ecumenism and inter-faith dialogue programmes,
2. Emphasises the need for building the capacity of EJACs in various programmes being implemented by the Council,
3. Emphasises the urgency of establishing EJACs structures at various levels including the grassroots,
4. Urges the clergy to embrace and spearhead ecumenism in their respective areas of operation,

5. Calls upon every Regional EJAC to popularise ecumenism at various levels and invest in team building by holding retreats and participating in joint ecumenical activities and celebrations,
6. Reminds EJACs of the need to develop hold quarterly meetings, develop work-plans and participate in resource mobilization for activities of the Council in their regions,
7. Underscores the need for inducting new bishops and clergy on ecumenism and the work of the Council.
8. Appeals to the Bishops to ensure that EJACs in their regions are functional, properly coordinated and visible.

2. On Education and other Social Services

The Assembly-

1. Calls upon church leaders to dialogue with local governments in their areas on matters pertaining to service delivery and other issues affecting the welfare of the people,
2. Underscores the need for sensitization of various stakeholders in the education sector on their roles and responsibilities,
3. Underscores the need for strengthening Parents Teacher Associations in schools throughout the country,
4. Emphasises the need for close supervision of all schools, especially those founded by the member churches,
5. Respectfully reminds the Government of the need to consult foundation bodies on matters pertaining to the posting and transfers of head teachers in church founded schools,
6. Underscores the need for participation of the Church in policy making processes including the budget process.
7. Appeals to parents to take their responsibility of educating their children seriously, including making provisions for feeding,
8. Asks the government to consider passing a law on compulsory education at the primary school level.

3. On Human Rights and Good Governance

The Assembly-

1. Commends the Government of Uganda for launching the National Identity Card Project,
2. Calls upon the Government to ensure that the Project is implemented professionally throughout the country.
3. Appeals to Ugandans to register for the National Identity Card
4. Calls upon UJCC Secretariat and member churches to sensitize Ugandans on the National ID Project by using church structures.
5. Asks UJCC Secretariat to develop and share guidelines for monitoring the National ID Card Project and sharing relevant information with various stakeholders including the public.
6. Asks the Secretariat to work with the Human Rights and Good Governance Committee to lobby Parliament to pass a law that will provide a legal framework for the National ID Project.
7. Asks the Secretariat to work out the modalities of facilitating dialogue between the Government and leaders of opposition political parties on the issue of tolerance and peaceful co-existence especially in the run-up to the General Elections.

[Dialogue will focus on upholding the spirit of patriotism, diversity, national unity, stability and sustainable development]

8. Asks UJCC Secretariat to develop a programme for participation of the Council in electoral reforms that will, among other things, focus on sensitizing Ugandans, soliciting their views and sharing their concerns and proposals with relevant agencies of the Government and the Parliament of Uganda,
9. Asks UJCC Secretariat to design, coordinate and implement a programme on civic and voter education in the run-up to the General Elections in 2016, with the participation of EJACs.
10. Asks member churches of the council to use the pulpit to pass civic education messages.
11. Asks the youth to use skits and drama to disseminate civic education messages at the grassroots level.

12. Asks UJCC Secretariat to develop a pastoral letter on guiding the Bishops and the Clergy on the General Elections in 2016 in consultation with the Human Rights and Good Governance Committee and other relevant organs.
13. Asks UJCC Secretariat to design and implement a programme for the participation of the Council in Election Observation in the run-up to and during the 2016 General Elections.
14. Mandates UJCC Secretariat to collaborate with other civil society organisations in observing the 2016 General Elections but ensure that the interests of the Church are safeguarded.
15. Asks the Secretariat to work out the modalities of engaging the government on the issue of human rights violations and abuses,
16. Asks member churches to organise prayers from time to time for the nation and our political leaders, especially in the run-up to the General Elections in 2016,

4. On Justice, Peace and Resolution

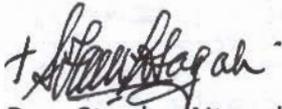
The Assembly-

1. Asks UJCC Secretariat to share important information on the development of the proposed National Peace Policy with the Bishops and other church leaders.
2. Calls upon Bishops and the clergy to lobby Members of Parliament in their respective areas with a view to impressing upon them the importance of a National Peace Policy.
3. Asks UJCC Secretariat to collaborate with other civil society organisations with a view to impressing upon the government the importance of fast-tracking the formulation and adoption of a National Peace Policy,
4. Asks UJCC Secretariat to scale up efforts aimed at building the capacity of EJACs on peace-building and mediation skills,
5. Asks the Chairpersons and the Secretaries of EJACs to ensure that EJACs meet at least quarterly to discuss matters affecting the Church and the people in the respective regions.
6. Asks the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Committee to work out the modalities of implementing the above resolutions.

5. On Institutional Capacity Strengthening

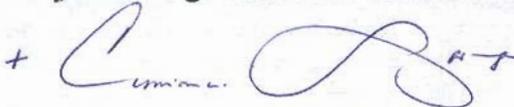
The Assembly-

1. Emphasises the need for scaling up efforts aimed diversifying the sources of incomes for the Council,
2. Calls upon the member churches to consider increasing their annual contributions to the Council,
3. Appeals to Christians and other people of goodwill to support the work of the Council by making personal contributions,
4. Calls upon member churches to take advantage of the Pubic Way of the Cross and other events to raise funds for the Council,
5. Calls upon the working committees to participate in fundraising by sensitizing Christians about UJCC and encouraging them to contribute towards the activities of the Council,
6. Calls upon the clergy to spearhead the task of sensitizing the public about the work of the Council at the grassroots level,
7. Urges EJACs to participate in fund-raising by initiating project proposals that address the specific needs of their regions.
8. Asks the Finance and Administration Committee to work out the modalities of implementing these resolutions.



The Most Rev. Stanley Ntagali

Chairperson Uganda Joint Christian Council



The Most Rev. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga

Co-Chairperson Uganda Joint Christian Council



Metropolitan Jonah Lwanga

Co-Chairperson Uganda Joint Christian Council