

## WELCOME REMARKS BY CPR PRESIDENT IN AACC 11TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

KIGALI, JULY 03,2018

Dear Guest of Honor at this opening ceremony of AACC 11th General Assembly;  
Dear President of AACC  
Dear members of the AACC Executive Committee;  
Dear General Secretary of AACC;  
Dear all delegates, from your respective countries, organisations and institutions to this AACC 11th General Assembly;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;  
All protocol observed!

On behalf of the Protestant Council of Rwanda/Le Conseil Protestant du Rwanda (CPR), the hosting organisation of this AACC 11th General Assembly and on my own behalf, as the President of the Protestant Council of Rwanda.

I am honoured and privileged to welcome you all. Welcome to Rwanda, the land of thousands of hills. Welcome to this beautiful and clean city of Kigali and feel at home.

Allow me to thank the AACC Executive Committee who has chosen Rwanda to host this very important gathering. Important meetings choose to take place here in Rwanda because of various considerations. I hereby mention only three examples among many;

**Firstly**, Rwanda is a peaceful country with a good political Leadership. We thank our Government for providing freedom of worship and support to Faith Based Organizations, as stipulated in the constitutions of the Republic of Rwanda.

**Secondly**, Rwanda has security all over the country, and it has opened doors to foreign visitors from all nations. Rwanda facilitates visitors to enjoy their stay in country and provides the adequate working environment for those who decide to do their business in Rwanda.

**Thirdly**, the Rwanda culture inherited from our forefront ancestors underlines that a Guest at Home is a blessing. You are all blessings to us, please enjoy that Rwandan hospitality and don't hesitate to approach any one in-charge in case you need any assistance.

Dear Guest of honor, distinguished participants,

The hosting organisation of this General Assembly which is Protestant Council of Rwanda is a Christian body established in 1935 bringing together Protestant Churches of Burundi and Rwanda during the Colonial period under the name **Protestant Alliance of Rwanda-Urundi**. The creation of the Protestant Churches a clear identity, a voice and vision in two countries that was predominantly Roman Catholic.

With independence of both countries (Rwanda and Burundi) in 1962 each of the country started its own council and this is how the Protestant Council in Rwanda was created. It was founded by the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda (EPR), the Free Methodist Church in Rwanda (EMLR), the Anglican Church in Rwanda (EAR) and the Union of Baptist Church of Rwanda (UEBR), and officially registered by the Government of Rwanda in November 1963. Today, CPR is composed by 20 Protestant Church members and 5 Christians organisations.

Our mission is to promote unity of action and vision of the Protestant Churches of Rwanda for the evangelist witness and for the well-being of Rwandan population. Our motto is from John 17:21: ***"That all of them may be one"***

In this regard, allow me to introduce my colleagues in ministry from the Protestant Council here present.

Dear Guest of honour, distinguished participant.

Rwanda in general and CPR in particular, we are proud to contribute in building and rebuilding AACC when we sent Rev. Dr. Andre KARAMAGA as AACC General Secretary. We appreciate very much his tremendous initiatives and achievements to develop AACC. The progress made by AACC during his two terms qualified him as a wonderful Africanist, a good ambassador of Rwanda in general and the Protestant Council in Rwanda in particular. Dear Rev. Dr. Andre KARAMAGA, the General Secretary of AACC, you deserve respect and honour.

To conclude my remarks, I would like to express my delight because you have chosen right place to discuss an important theme: **“Respecting the Dignity and God’s Image in Every Human being”**.

You have chosen a right place because the Rwandan Constitution is clear concerning the respect of human dignity. It stipulates the following:

***“All Rwandans are born free and remain free and equal in rights and in duties. Any discrimination based notably on race, ethnic origin, tribe, clan, sex, region, social, religion, opinion, economic circumstances, culture, language, social situation, physical or mental disability or any form of description is prohibited and is punishable by law.”***

Once again warm welcome and may God bless you all

**Bishop Samuel KAYINAMURA**  
**The President of CPR**