



The Africa Roundtable Declaration  
Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa, 25–29 March 2007

We, the delegates to this first Africa Roundtable, came together to consider issues and strategies related to the conference theme:

*God's Redemptive Plan for Reaching the Lost and Future Generations of Africa*

First, we express our thanks to God for what has been accomplished. 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 (ACSI) for hosting this historic conference. The Roundtable was a gathering of 140 educators and other community leaders from 32 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,

*Whereas* sin entered the world through man's disobedience to God in the fall, we believe that all children have become the recipients of the fall. The majority of children in Africa live their lives marginalized by poverty, vulnerability, powerlessness, isolation, and physical weakness, all of which have led to a lack of education that will prepare them to be effective citizens,

*Whereas* these truths will require of us a higher level of commitment, accountability, personal response, and involvement in our role of redeeming the lost and future generations of Africa's children through Christ-centered schooling, we understand the need for mobilisation of African church leaders, Christian educators, mission leaders, and the Christian business community in order to counter the aggressive education efforts of religious communities on the continent, efforts that are in conflict with biblical truth,

*Whereas* it will require great effort to achieve the goals identified here, 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,

*Whereas* we are aware of the vast mineral and other natural resources of our African continent, we affirm enthusiastically the efforts to mobilise these resources for the benefit of the children of Africa, especially through our Christian schools.

Furthermore, we hereby declare that we commit to action that includes all of the following:

1. We will establish and maintain high standards for intellectual, physical, emotional, social and spiritual development of our children, especially by making a Biblical worldview the focus of all areas of the curriculum and school life. We believe that if we do this, children for whom we are responsible will be trained in citizenship and will take their rightful place as the next generation of leaders for Africa and for the rest of the world.
2. We will model a Christ-like character to our students in integrity, trust, loyalty, humility and ethical behaviour in every aspect of our lives.
3. We will battle in prayer for the advancement of the Kingdom of God, evangelizing and discipling through Christian schooling throughout Africa and especially in our own communities.
4. We will champion the extensive planting of new, effective, sustainable Christian schools. We will also work for the improvement of existing Christian schools.
5. We will share responsibility for the education of the child among the family, church and school.
6. We will promote unity and communication in the body of Christ by supporting the establishment of educational associations that bring together Christians from diverse backgrounds at a local, national, regional and international level.
7. We will network and support strategies by which resources are shared accountably to provide more effective education, including professional development.
8. We will pro-actively represent the cause of Christian schooling through collaborative networks in all sectors of society.

We pledge, with the strength only God can provide, to uphold this declaration for the advancement of the Kingdom of God through Christian schooling to the glory of God.