ZCC AND CHRISTIAN AID JOIN GLOBAL CALLS FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE AT IMF/WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETINGS IN BANGKOK



Proceedings during the Civil Society Townhall with World Bank President

The Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), in partnership with Christian Aid, is participating in the IMF and World Bank Annual meetings and associated People's Campaign activities taking place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 18 October 2026, joining civil society organisations, faith-based institutions and social movements in advocating for a fairer global economic system that prioritises human dignity, social justice and sustainable development.

Represented by its Head of Programme for Church, Peace and Just Societies, Mr Admire Mutizwa, ZCC is engaging with stakeholders from across the world to reflect on the impact of global financial policies on developing countries, particularly their implications for public debt, inequality, access to essential services and the wellbeing of vulnerable communities.

For ZCC, participation in these discussions is particularly significant in the context of Zimbabwe's economic challenges, including public debt, constrained fiscal space, inequality and the rising cost of accessing essential services. These challenges extend beyond economic statistics, affecting the bility of families to access healthcare, afford education, secure decent livelihoods and live with dignity. Through its partnership with Christian Aid, ZCC seeks to connect these everyday realities with global policy discussions, advocating for economic systems that are accountable, inclusive and responsive to the needs of people, particularly those living in poverty and marginalised communities.

Ahead of the main engagements, Mr Mutizwa participated in the Southern Caucus Meeting of the People's Campaign Against the IMF and World Bank on 11 October 2026. The meeting brought together representatives from the Global South to examine persistent inequalities within the international economic system and explore collective approaches towards building democratic, sovereign and people-centred economies.

Discussions highlighted persistent inequalities in the global economic system, which continue to disadvantage developing countries and limit their ability to pursue independent development priorities. Participants called for democratic and sustainable industrialisation, decent mployment, equitable technology transfer and increased investment in infrastructure and essential public services. Emphasis was also placed on land sovereignty, agrarian reform, food security and stronger public institutions to protect workers' rights, support local production and ensure equitable access to healthcare, education, water, energy and social protection.

The caucus further underscored the importance of stronger South-South cooperation and

international solidarity in addressing structural economic inequalities. Participants called for greater collaboration among developing countries to strengthen their collective influence in global economic governance and pursue development pathways responsive to their people's needs.

Gender justice, ecological sustainability and meaningful public participation were also emphasised. Participants stressed that women, young people, workers, farmers, Indigenous communities and other historically marginalised groups must have a meaningful voice in shaping economic policies that affect their livelihoods and futures.

These discussions resonate with ZCC's ongoing work in Zimbabwe, particularly its advocacy for debt justice, equitable resource distribution, responsible natural resource governance, decent livelihoods and meaningful citizen participation in economic policymaking.

On 12 October 2026, engagements continued through the People's Assembly, bringing together civil society organisations, faith-based institutions and people's movements to advocate for reforms to the global financial system. Discussions focused on debt justice, harmful austerity measures and international tax inequalities that constrain developing countries' ability to finance essential public services and sustainable development. Participants called for fairer debt arrangements, increased investment in healthcare, education and social protection, and stronger action against illicit financial flows, tax avoidance and unfair taxation practices.

The People's Assembly is advancing calls for:

- Comprehensive debt cancellation and debt justice for heavily indebted developing countries;
- Restructuring of the global economic and financial system to address historical and structural inequalities;
- An end to austerity measures that undermine governments' capacity to finance essential public services;
- Fair and democratic global economic governance, with developing countries having a stronger voice in international decision-making;
- The establishment and implementation of a United Nations framework convention on sovereign debt;
- The enactment of the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation;
- Stronger action against illicit financial flows, tax avoidance and unfair international taxation practices; and
- Economic and climate policies that place people and the planet at the centre of development.



ZCC Head of Programme for Church, Peace and Just Societies on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Meetings in Bangkok

These proposed reforms are particularly relevant to Zimbabwe, where public debt and limited fiscal space continue to constrain investment in essential services and national development. The discussions align with ZCC's ongoing advocacy on debt justice, fair taxation, equitable resource allocation and citizen participation in economic governance, reinforcing the need for policies that respond to the lived realities of ordinary Zimbabweans.

Grounded in the Christian vision of abundant life (John 10:10), ZCC maintains that economic justice is inseparable from human dignity, peace and social wellbeing. Through its participation in Bangkok, ZCC, in partnership with Christian Aid, reaffirms its commitment to advancing people-centred economic policies and a fairer global financial system. For ZCC, meaningful economic progress must be measured not only by economic growth, but by its ability to reduce poverty, improve livelihoods and create opportunities for all to flourish.