The root of this tragedy has two faces: on one hand we have the hopelessness of young people who do not have any hope for the present and the future, and in many cases this hopelessness is shared with their own families who even contribute financially for their departure; on the other hand, we have international networks which organise human trafficking in order to respond to the need for cheap labour in countries overseas.

The fact that the boat transporting these people sank in the sea without any intervention is a crime against humanity. The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) condemns this crime, and wants to underline that this is a reminder of times past when other Africans were thrown in the sea because they were sick during the period of slavery.

We call upon the African Union (AU) and each of our nations to urgently create a conducive environment which makes Africa a better place to live in with hope and dignity. We urge overseas nations, especially European governments, to do anything possible to put to an end to the attitude that would result in a similar tragedy. We ask the Church in Africa and beyond to take this challenge seriously and reverse the situation without delay.

GOD OF LIFE
LEAD AFRICA TO PEACE, JUSTICE AND DIGNITY