APPENDIX 1

A letter from a Kenyan priest of the AOC to the Department of External Church Relations of the Russian Orthodox Church, November 12, 2019[1]

(Original spelling preserved)

I am the [rank and name][2] from Kenya.

I'm Kenyan African by race and by birth, of the African Orthodox Church of Kenya, under Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa.

We grieve with Russia and Ukraine at the present and on going schism brought about by the untimely event and actions of Constantinople to grant Autocephally to The church under Metropolitan Epiphanus! We pray for a speedy healing of this schism and a return to the true faith of the Ukrainian church under Onufriy!

My point is this: Now that Alexandria has officially recognized the uncanonical Ukrainian Church under Epiphanus and rejected the Canonically internationally recognized Ukrainian Autocephallous church under His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufriy Berezovsky of Kiev 2014- incumbent, are you still bound by and adhering to the ancient Patriarchal boundaries already broken in practice by all jurisdictions in America? Because in our view the present action by Constantinople and now Alexandria to recognize Epiphanus, has flank the gates wide open for Russia to begin Missionary work on the African continent with vigor, favor and without any reference to the age old perimeters of traditional recognized jurisdictional boundaries among Patriarchates, which have now been broken!

Our poubg is Let us have all Orthodox jurisdictions be represented on the African Continent, to offer their flavor of the true faith, like in the Americas! What would hinter Russia now, from coming to the rescue of African Orthodox brothers and sisters trapped under Greek racial hegemony and to provide them with pure freedom of Christian Orthodoxy from Russia with love, brotherly inclusion and grant leadership to the African people?

I would be very much willing to join the Moscow Patriarchate under the Omoforion, protection both me and my people, and recognition by His Beatitude Patriarch Kyrill of Moscow, under your official advisory Sir!

My main message in this letter is to express to your Eminence that Kenyans have been tired, for a very long time now, with the tyrannical Greek orthodox rule here.

The African Orthodox priests in Uganda and Kenya sought to join the Greek Patriarchate of Alexandria as early as 1935 but it was not until 1946 that they were received into the Greek Patriarchate of Alexandria. Since then a lot has gone under the bridge and we ate now tired and crave for a saviour to save us from this blind hegemony!

I'm now taking this great and never before, tried risky affair and in confidence, to invite the Holy Moscow Patriarchate via my humble and sinful, unworthy and lowly person, to consider this real possibility of opening up Africa for Russian Orthodox missionary Enterprise on the Golden Continent of Africa, now and without further delay! This Ukraine schism created by the papacy of Constantinople is your God given opportunity and a bright signal to Russia to come and open up missions of Evangelism in the Africa, beginning from Kenya and to bring around here in a positive Christian Agape bearing the good tidings of Christ and brotherly mutual respect, honor and understanding and to make a difference in Africa. I strongly truely bieve that this is the right time for Russia to strike and do so quickly with thunder and like lighting, now that Constantinople has done away with jurisdictional respect,

[1] Archive of the African Exarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church.
[2] At the request of the author, his name and rank are concealed.

honoring ancient boundaries and the adhering to sister churches sense of ecclesial unity of the church by interfering in the church of Ukraine.

We kindly request you to take our resolve and request to you to come to us here very seriously and positively.

We kindly request you that should we find favor in your loving hearts and care so that you be considerate enough to welcome our idea and desire, on receipt of our request to the Holy Patriarchate of Moscow, kindly please, we would that you will move with speed, secrecy and stealth to come to us and break this slavery that Africans are suffering under this ungrateful hegemony!

We want the Moscow Patriarchate to come and breath a new life in this community of faithful Orthodox believers on the African continent by offering us a Russian flavor of the Orthodox Christian Faith, which will resonate very quickly and easily with African culture, traditional ethos especially its Music and temperaments!

APPENDIX 2

Collective letter from Tanzanian clerics of the AOC to the Patriarch of Moscow Kirill on acceptance into the ROC, January 22, 2022 (source: archive of the AE ROC):

To His Holiness
Kirill,
Patriarch
of Moscow
And all Russia

Your Holiness!

We are priests of the Patriarchate of Alexandria in Tanzania.

When Patriarch Theodoros recognized the Ukrainian schismatics, many of us signed an Open Letter of African priests, expressing our disagreement with this act and hope that this decision will be changed. However, shortly after the publication of the open letter, many fathers, who signed it, experienced pressure from our Greek bishops in Tanzania. They threatened to defrock us and even demand to sign opposite letter with support of decision of patriarch Theodoros.

Your Holiness, this convinces us that, unfortunately, Patriarch Theodoros and our local bishops are not going to reconsider above mentioned uncanonical decision.

As priests we feel responsible to protect our parishioners from communicating with schismatics. But we cannot do this, remaining in the Alexandrian Patriarchate. Therefore, we ask you to accept us in the Russian Orthodox Church. Our parishioners support us.

Please save us from unity with schism!

The petition contains 13 signatures

APPENDIX 3

A letter from a Group of Clergy of the Non-Canonical "Patriarchate of Nations" from Gabon Requesting Acceptance into the Russian Orthodox Church, June 13, 2023[3]

English translation from French:

To His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Leonid
Metropolitan of Klin
Exarch of Africa

REQUEST
for admission to the Russian Orthodox Church
from a group of Gabonese believers

Your Eminence,

We, a group of Orthodox believers from the Republic of Gabon, ask you to accept us under your omophorion as children of the African Exarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Love for Orthodoxy arose in our hearts many years ago. Unfortunately, due to lack of information, we joined an organization called the "Orthodox Church of the Patriarchate of Nations," thinking it was part of the true Orthodox Church. When we realized the non-canonical nature of this organization and that it has no communion with the canonical local Orthodox Churches, we decided to continue our search for the Church of Christ and with great joy learned about the formation of the African Exarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Recognizing the non-canonical nature of the ordinations we received in the "Orthodox Church of the Patriarchate of Nations," we refuse to continue calling ourselves clergy and ask to be accepted as laypeople into the Russian Orthodox Church. And also our believers, who fully share our desire to finally be in the authentic Orthodox Church.

For our part, we promise to be in complete obedience to the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Patriarchal Exarch of Africa, and the bishop who will be appointed for the spiritual guidance of our country.

We express our readiness to learn and follow the teachings, liturgical practices, and traditions of piety of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Five signatures (of a "bishop," three "priests," and a "deacon").

[3] Archive of the African Exarchate of Russian Orthodox Church.

APPENDIX 4

Collective Letter from Russians Living in Eight West African Countries, August 2022[4]

Translation from Russian:
To His Eminence,
Most Reverend
Leonid,
Metropolitan of Klin,
Patriarchal Exarch of Africa

Your Eminence!

We hereby address you with a petition from an initiative group of compatriots in West Africa regarding the opening of an Orthodox parish and the construction of the first Russian church in West Africa for our compatriots, emigrants from CIS countries, and their families living in West Africa.

About a thousand of our compatriots live and/or work in West Africa, as well as Orthodox emigrants from CIS countries and their families. Living in a country with a different religion and culture has its peculiarities. Living far from their homeland, Russia, Orthodox laypeople, our compatriots with their family members realize the value of being Orthodox Christians and bear their responsibility for promoting Russian culture, language, and the Orthodox Church in the world, in the country where they live, among the local population of Africa.

The need for a Russian church in West Africa is most acutely felt in the current complex geopolitical period, during the pandemic and restrictions. Compatriots from Russia have repeatedly, over many years, expressed their dream of a Russian Orthodox Church, to have the opportunity to gather together and perform Orthodox services, to offer common prayer "with one mouth and one heart."

On our initiative, we approached Salavat Alexandrovich Shcherbakov, a world-renowned Russian sculptor, academician, member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Arts, People's Artist of the Russian Federation, professor. Salavat Alexandrovich sincerely supported our initiative, developed a preliminary sketch project for a church building for 100 parishioners, and approached you in December 2021 with a request for assistance in creating the Church.

Also, in June 2022, we received your blessing for our request to attract a ktitor [donor/founder] for the implementation of this project.

We humbly ask for your blessing and assistance in opening an Orthodox parish and building the first Russian church in West Africa for our compatriots, emigrants from CIS countries, and their families living in West Africa, who strive to maintain spiritual ties with Russia and preserve their cultural and national identity.

(List of the initiative group is attached) August 2022

The petition contains 97 signatures, including:

32 from Burkina Faso
17 from Senegal
17 from Côte d'Ivoire
11 from Togo
8 from Mali
6 from Guinea-Bissau
4 from Benin
2 from Guinea Conakry

[4] Archive of the African Exarchate of Russian Orthodox Church.

APPENDIX 5

Chronology of the Russian Orthodox Church's Expansion in African Countries

In December 2019, Russian parishes in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and South Africa were accepted into the jurisdiction of the ROC. In December 2021, petitions for the transfer of African priests and communities from eight more countries were granted—Kenya, Tanzania [Gromova, Urb 2016], Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Madagascar, Congo, and Nigeria. In the subsequent two and a half years, the Exarchate established its presence and began conducting religious activities in twenty-two more African countries, bringing the total number of countries to thirty-four. Below is chronological information about the Exarchate's appearance in each of these countries.

February 2022

Ethiopia. There is a parish of the Alexandrian Orthodox Church (AOC) in the country, headed by a Greek bishop. The first attempts to establish a mission of the Russian Orthodox Church in Abyssinia date back to the 19th century. In particular, Archimandrite Paisiy (Balabanov) [Abyssinian mission... 1889][5], in January 1889, set up a field church and began conducting services at Fort Sagallo as part of N.I. Ashinov's expedition. Subsequently, other Russian priests came to Addis Ababa, starting with Archimandrite Ephrem (Tsvetaev) in 1895 and ending with Hieromonk Anthony (Bulatovich) in 1911 [Grigorieva 2023].

Later, during the Soviet era, Ethiopia was visited multiple times by delegations of the Russian Orthodox Church, beginning with Archimandrite Nikodim (Rotov) in 1959 [Kazem-Bek 2024], and including a visit by Patriarch Pimen of Moscow and All Russia in 1974 [Zabolotsky 1974], but these were diplomatic trips to the Ethiopian Church and did not involve services or initiatives to revive the Russian mission.

The first service in Church Slavonic in Addis Ababa after more than a hundred years was performed by Priest Sergiy Kim, who, with the blessing of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, visited Ethiopia from April 25 to 30, 2019[6]. He conducted the services during Holy Week and Easter on the territory of the Russian Embassy in Addis Ababa but used an antimins received from Metropolitan Daniel of Aksum, a bishop of the Alexandrian Orthodox Church, with which the Russian Church then had full ecclesiastical unity.

After the formation of the Patriarchal Exarchate of Africa, in February 2022, Hieromonk Stefan (Igumnov) visited Ethiopia. During his visit, he raised the issue of opening a parish of the Russian Orthodox Church in Addis Ababa in a meeting with Ambassador E.E. Terekhin, as well as with Patriarch Mathias of the Ethiopian Church[7]. The first person to serve the liturgy in the country on January 7, 2024, using an antimins of the Russian Orthodox Church, was Archpriest Tigriy Khachatryan[8]. As a result of his visit, a Russian Orthodox community was formed in Ethiopia, which is visited several times a year by priests from Russia.

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[5] Pakhomov P., deacon. "Ataman Ashinov and Archimandrite Paisiy in authentic illumination." *Church of St. Sergius of Radonezh in Solntsevo*. http://xn----7sbhl3aejgelo7bv.xn--p1ai/novosti/abissinskaya-missiya.html (accessed: 25.03.2025)

[6] For the first time in a century, the Paschal liturgy in Church Slavonic was performed on Ethiopian soil. *Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate*. https://mospat.ru/ru/news/46394/pdf/ (accessed: 25.03.2025)

[7] The Ethiopian Patriarch met with the DECR secretary for inter-Christian relations. *Russian Orthodox Church. Official website*. 26.02.2022. http://www.patriarchia.ru/db/text/5904290.html (accessed: 25.03.2025)

[8] On the feast of the Nativity of Christ, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the capital of Ethiopia. *Patriarchal Exarchate of Africa (Telegram channel)*. 01/07/2024. https://t.me/exarchate_mp/464 (accessed: 25.03.2025)

Rwanda. In Rwanda, there was a diocese of the Alexandrian Patriarchate with ten clerics, but their activities had been effectively paralyzed for a long time due to restrictions imposed by the state. The Russian Orthodox mission began in this country after the visit of Priest Georgy Maximov on February 16–17, 2022, when he accepted the first two priests from the Alexandrian Patriarchate into the Russian Orthodox Church[9]. Subsequently, the number of those who transferred increased to 7 clerics. The pastoral care of compatriots and the churching of converted Rwandans was continued by missionary A.V. Lyulka, Archpriest Tigriy Khachatryan, Priests Dionysius Grishkov and Anthony Skrynnikov.

Democratic Republic of Congo. This is one of the African countries with the largest Orthodox population. The Alexandrian Patriarchate has three dioceses here. The mission in the DR Congo began on February 25, 2022, when Congolese priest Nikolai Musoya traveled to Zambia to meet with Priest Georgy Maximov there and became the first priest from the DR Congo to be accepted into the Russian Orthodox Church[10]. The next stage in the development of the mission was Priest Georgy's trip from October 21 to 28, 2022, during which 10 priests were received from the Alexandrian Patriarchate in Kinshasa and in the southeast of the country (Lubumbashi, Kolwezi, Tenke, Fungurume, and other places), as well as a large community of the non-canonical "Byzantine Orthodox Catholic Church," including three parishes in Kinshasa and two in Matadi. The pastoral care of Russians in Kinshasa and the expansion of the Russian Orthodox mission continued with further visits by Priest Georgy, as well as Archpriest Tigriy Khachatryan and Priest Vasily Beletsky.

April 2022

Cameroon. The Russian Orthodox mission began in this country after the visit of Priest Dionysius Grishkov on April 8–10, 2022, who, together with missionary K.D. Gorditsa, received three priests from the Alexandrian Patriarchate[11]. Subsequently, three more joined from the Alexandrian Patriarchate, and one priest was ordained by Metropolitan Leonid of Klin on January 9, 2023. Priest Georgy Maximov, during his trip on February 10–15, 2023, began a mission among the non-canonical communities of Cameroon, which was later continued by missionary A.V. Lyulka. As a result, it led to the reception into the Russian Orthodox Church of an entire diocese of the non-canonical "Byzantine Catholic Orthodox Church," including a "bishop" and 5 "priests" who were caring for 8 communities. All of them were received as laypeople, and the former "bishop" Herman Mbarga was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Konstantin of Zaraysk in Moscow on April 6, 2024.

May 2022

Mauritius. Since 2001, there has been one parish of the Alexandrian Patriarchate in Mauritius. The Russian Orthodox mission began in this country after the visit of Archpriest Andrei Novikov in May 2022, who performed the first service and began pastoral care for compatriots living in the country[12]. This was continued by Archpriest Dimitri Matienko, who was sent to serve in Mauritius in September 2023. Due to his missionary work, Mauritians also began to embrace Orthodoxy, and one of them was sent to study at a Russian seminary. The successful missionary and pastoral activities of Archpriest Dimitri led to the parish of the Alexandrian Patriarchate effectively ceasing to exist because all parishioners transferred to the parish of the Russian Orthodox Church.

[9] In unity with the Russian Orthodox Church. *Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate*. 2022. № 7. P. 42.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.
[12] In unity with the Russian Orthodox Church. Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate. 2022. № 7. P. 43.

Namibia. A Russian community has been active in the country for many years, which the hierarchs of the Alexandrian Patriarchate previously perceived as being under their jurisdiction. It was served by Russian priests coming from Johannesburg. This was the only Orthodox community in the country. On May 14, 2022, Archpriest Daniel Lugovoy, with the blessing of Metropolitan Leonid, celebrated the liturgy in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, which marked the official transfer of the community to the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church[13].

July 2022

Central African Republic (CAR). One priest of the Alexandrian Patriarchate served here, far from the capital. In addition, there was a non-canonical community of the "Byzantine Orthodox Catholic Church of Cameroon" led by "Bishop" Regis Voemawa, with parishes in the country's capital, Bangui, and in the city of Boali. This community was received into the Russian Orthodox Church by Priest Georgy Maximov on July 3, 2022. Subsequently, priest Silouan Bazou with his believers and Deacon Oleg Issaka, both Central Africans, were received from the Alexandrian Patriarchate, which ended the presence of the Alexandrian Church in the CAR. Regis Voemawa, who received the name Sergiy, was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Leonid of Klin on March 5, 2023, and another CAR priest was ordained by the next exarch, Metropolitan Konstantin of Zaraysk, in May 2024.

September 2022

Côte d'Ivoire. The Russian Orthodox mission began in this country after the visit of Priest Georgy Maximov on September 6–9, 2022, who received one priest and one subdeacon from the Alexandrian Patriarchate, began negotiations with a non-canonical Orthodox community, and pastoral care for compatriots living in the country. These efforts were subsequently continued by Priests Raphael Da Conceicao and Evgeny Veselov. The catechism of the large non-canonical group (over 500 people), continued by Priest Parfeny Dansu, led to its joining on June 12, 2023. Daniel Brou, who led the group, was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Konstantin of Zaraysk in Moscow on April 7, 2024.

November 2022

Benin. In this country, there were people from Russia, as well as a non-canonical community requesting reception. The Russian Orthodox mission began after the visit of Priest Georgy Maximov on November 1–4, 2022, who began pastoral care for compatriots and catechism of the non-canonical community, which was later continued by Priest Parfeny Dansu, who on August 24, 2023, received 156 people into the Russian Orthodox Church—a community in the city of Cotonou and a community in the city of Abomey. The first priest for Benin was ordained by Metropolitan Konstantin of Zaraysk in Moscow on May 2, 2024.

January 2023

Senegal. There is not a single parish of the Alexandrian Patriarchate in this country, nor any non-canonical Orthodox group. The Russian Orthodox mission appeared here after the visit of Priest Georgy Maximov on January 4–7, 2023, who began pastoral care for compatriots, which was later continued by Priests Raphael Da Conceicao and Sergiy Korelsky.

Mali. There were neither Alexandrian parishes nor groups of non-canonical Orthodoxy in this country. The Russian Orthodox mission began here after the visit of Priest Georgy

[13] Namibia. Windhoek. *Metropolitan Leonid (Telegram Channel)*. 05/16/2022. https://t.me/exarchleonid/917 (accessed: 25.03.2025)

Maximov on January 8–11, 2023, who began pastoral care for compatriots, which was successfully continued by Priest Vyacheslav Perkov.

Burundi. The Russian Orthodox mission began in this country after the visit of Priest Georgy Maximov on January 13–17, 2023, who received 3 clerics (2 priests and 1 deacon) who came from the Alexandrian Patriarchate. Subsequently, missionary activity among Burundians continued with A.V. Lyulka, and pastoral care for compatriots was provided by Priests Anthony Skrynnikov and Sergiy Korelsky.

June 2023

Burkina Faso. There was a small Orthodox community of the Alexandrian Patriarchate here, founded on personal initiative by Priest Jeremiah Behanzin, who served in Côte d'Ivoire. However, his ruling hierarch, Metropolitan Alexander of Nigeria, did not recognize this community, so it had no official status. The Russian Orthodox mission began in this country after the visit of Priests Georgy Maximov and Parfeny Dansu on June 10–11, 2023, during which the above-mentioned community was received into the Russian Orthodox Church and united with compatriots living in the country. The first Burkenese Orthodox priest was ordained by Metropolitan Konstantin of Zaraysk in Moscow on May 18, 2024.

Gabon. There was a mission of the Alexandrian Patriarchate here in 2011–2012, conducted by Priest Victor Etendi, but after he was returned to Cameroon, it was abandoned and subsequently joined one of the non-canonical groups centered in France (the so-called "Patriarchate of Nations"). The revival of canonical Orthodoxy and the Russian Orthodox mission in Gabon began after the visit of Priest Georgy Maximov on June 13–15, 2023, who began catechizing the non-canonical group, which was later continued by missionary A.V. Lyulka and Priest Parfeny Dansu. On August 18, 2023, Priest Parfeny received four communities into the Russian Church: two in the city of Libreville, one in the city of Ntoum, and one in the village of Abing-Assi. The first Orthodox priest from Gabon was ordained by Metropolitan Konstantin of Zaraysk in Moscow on April 28, 2024.

Angola. There were no parishes of the Alexandrian Patriarchate in this country. But there were people from Russia living there, as well as one non-canonical community requesting reception. The Russian Orthodox mission began here after the visit of Priest Georgy Maximov on June 16–18, 2023, who began pastoral care for compatriots and catechism of the non-canonical community, which was later continued by missionary A.V. Lyulka and Priest Raphael Da Conceicao. On January 5, 2025, Priest Raphael received 237 people into the Russian Orthodox Church—a community located in the country's capital, Luanda. On February 9, 2025, the first Russian Orthodox clergyman for Angola was ordained.

Togo. There are three parishes of the Alexandrian Patriarchate in the country. In November 2022, Subdeacon Benedict Pitasso from the Alexandrian Church approached the Exarchate with a request to receive him with his family and his small community in the country's capital, Lomé. He was invited to Russia for preparatory courses for future clergy and was ordained to the holy priesthood with the name Boris by Metropolitan Leonid of Klin on April 9, 2023. Returning to the country in June of the same year, Father Boris established a parish of the Russian Church in Lomé.

Seychelles. The Alexandrian Patriarchate has one parish here; however, it is very small. The Russian Orthodox mission appeared in this country after the visit of Priest Georgy Maximov on June 24-30, 2023, who began pastoral care for compatriots, which was later continued by Archpriest Vladimir Kutikin and Priest Vasily Beletsky.

July 2023

Mozambique. There were two parishes of the Alexandrian Patriarchate here, oriented primarily toward the pastoral care of local Greeks. The Russian Orthodox mission began after

the visit of Priests Georgy Maximov and Justin Martin on July 1–4, 2023, who received the remnants of the Alexandrian community in the city of Beira, which had been without services and priest visits for more than two years. Priest Georgy also created a community in the country's capital, Maputo, consisting predominantly of Russians. One Mozambican young man was sent to study at a Russian seminary. Subsequently, work here was continued by Priest Theodore Ponomarev.

Zimbabwe. The country has a diocese of the Alexandrian Patriarchate, which includes several parishes, mainly oriented toward Greeks living in the country. The number of local clergy is small; some of the clerics of this diocese approached the Russian Exarchate with requests for reception, but they were refused for various reasons. The Russian mission began in this country after the visit of Priest Georgy Maximov on July 5–8, 2023, who began pastoral care for people from Russia, which was later continued by Archpriest Dmitry Polokhov.

October 2023

Equatorial Guinea. There is not a single Alexandrian parish in this country; a community of the Russian Orthodox Church appeared after the visit of Priest Georgy Maximov on October 11–14, 2023. Its pastoral care was continued by Priest Igor Filonenko. Metropolitan Konstantin of Zaraysk, during his visit on December 11–17, 2024, received into Orthodoxy the first Guinean, a former "priest" of a non-canonical Orthodox community.

June 2024

Chad. The Alexandrian Patriarchate has one church in Chad. The presence of the Russian Orthodox Church in the country began after the missionary visit of Priest Georgy Maximov on June 16, 2024, which led to the appearance of the first community near the city of Fianga. Its pastoral care is temporarily provided by clergy from Cameroon.