



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

A COMMUNION OF CHURCHES – EINE KIRCHENGEMEINSCHAFT – UNA COMUNIÓN DE IGLESIAS – UNE COMMUNION D'ÉGLISES

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND – FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL – FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

General Secretariat - Office for International Affairs and Human Rights

Resolution on Climate Change

LWF Council, Geneva
27 October 2009

(1) The Council

VOTED to:

(2) - noting that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has clearly indicated that if global warming is to be limited to between 2.0 and 2.4°C global emissions must peak no later than 2015 - *Stress* again the critical urgency and unprecedented magnitude of the challenge of climate change and the threat that it poses to humanity and all living things on Earth.

(3) *Reiterate* the call to member churches contained in the Council's resolution in Arusha, 2008,¹ to engage in and deepen their theological and ethical reflection and action on climate change.

(4) *Commend* to member churches the materials and resources produced by the LWF to aid such reflection and action, as well as the resources available from the WCC and other ecumenical partners.

(5) *Commend* in particular the outcome documents from the LWF Climate Change Encounter in Puri, India, 16-20 April 2009,² and the LWF Africa Regional Consultation on Climate Change, Food Insecurity and Poverty in Africa, Nairobi, 5-10 October 2009.³

(6) *Call* upon all member churches to observe 13 December 2009 – during the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen – as a day for prayer, confession and action on the issue of climate change, to ring church bells or to take other symbolic actions in solidarity for climate justice; and ask the General Secretary to produce and make available liturgical material for use by member churches on this occasion.

(7) *Ask* the representatives of the LWF communion attending the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, and LWF member churches around the world, to:

- Advocate for an agreement that is based on justice, raising up the voices of the vulnerable and the poor, highlighting especially the impacts of climate change on food insecurity and increasing human vulnerability, including the phenomena of climate change migration and climate change refugees.
- Insist that the international community establish a fair, equitable, legally-binding agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol, in order to achieve the target of 40% reduction of developed country carbon emissions by 2020.
- Promote the establishment of just and adequate means of financing climate change mitigation and adaptation in the countries of the developing world, so that developing countries can adapt to the worst consequences of global warming, reduce their emissions, and deploy 'clean' technologies. Funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries must not be drawn from existing development cooperation budgets/commitments.
- Support calls for compensation and reparations for the disastrous consequences of climate change in the Global South.



- Advocate for commitments and measures to ensure that global greenhouse gas emissions peak no later than 2015 and then decline rapidly towards a target of atmospheric CO₂ concentrations of less than 350 ppm as soon as possible.
- Draw on and integrate the important insights and wisdom of Indigenous Peoples on ethical and sustainable relationships with creation.

¹ http://www.lutheranworld.org/What_We_Do/OIAHR/Issues_Events/Climate%20res_Council08.pdf

² http://www.lutheranworld.org/What_We_Do/Dts/Programs/Puri-Climate_communique.pdf

³ http://www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF-2009_Nairobi_Regional_Consultation-EN.pdf