

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE
DEPARTMENT FOR WORLD SERVICE**

The specific assignment of the Department for World Service is:

To work with the member churches of the Lutheran World Federation in the fulfillment of their individual and corporate responsibilities in the field of Christian Service (Diaconia). This includes the following elements vital to the life and witness of the church:

- a) Service to refugees, relief, rehabilitation, environmental protection and other related concerns: and
- b) The fostering of Christian social responsibility with special efforts to address the root causes of social and economic injustice. Special emphasis should be placed on continuing and intensifying the department's partnership with member churches in all areas of its work.

In pursuance of its assignment and within the limits of its resources, the department is authorized to:

1. encourage LWF member churches and their related agencies to provide services for the alleviation of human need in areas of distress and to support them in such endeavors;
2. conduct, administer, support and participate in relief, rehabilitation, development and resettlement programs with particular reference to refugees, emergency situations and areas of endemic need. Such services, should be rendered with, or on behalf of, one or several LWF member churches, their agencies or other ecumenical organizations, shall be global in scope and for the benefit of people in need irrespective of race, sex, creed, nationality or political conviction;
3. furnish coordinative services for LWF member churches and their related agencies with respect to international relief, rehabilitation and development programs and provide them with information and facilities for the channeling of resources and the assignment of personnel;
4. serve as an international Lutheran agency which can be recognized by relevant United Nations relief and rehabilitation agencies, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and voluntary organizations, to represent the LWF before such agencies, and enter into such agreements with them as will facilitate the work of the LWF;
5. conduct or authorize specialized surveys and evaluations of programs related to the assignment of the department and take such other steps as are required for the discharge of its assignment;
6. foster partnership and interdependency among the member churches through resource sharing, experience exchange and training of persons for participation in diaconic service;

7. provide for and conduct conferences related to its special responsibilities; and
8. in cooperation with other LWF units, give attention to and support the member churches in the fostering of awareness concerning the nature and implications of issues relating to socioeconomic justice, peace and the integrity of creation as they pertain to development and human rights.