



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

SITUATIONS OF ACUTE CONFLICT

Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

Bearing in mind the participation of LWF member churches in the ecumenical “Decade to Overcome Violence”, and its objectives of identifying and addressing forms of violence in the various contexts in which churches witness and work, applying faith resources to address violence and its consequences, and building networks and partnerships against violence, the Council VOTED:

A. Concerning the *Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)*

- to raise awareness among the member churches and national governments worldwide about the devastating impact of the war within the DRC and upon its immediate neighbours;
- to express solidarity with the people of the DRC, especially the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo, and other persons of goodwill in that nation, and encourage the member churches and the international community as they work for a just and sustainable peace;
- to call for the withdrawal of all foreign military forces from the DRC;
- to call upon the international community to relieve the acute suffering of the civilian population, especially women and children, and to intensify humanitarian assistance;
- to call upon the parties to the conflict, with the assistance of the international community, to recommence negotiations to achieve a cease-fire and a lasting peace agreement; and
- to express particular concern for the impact upon children in situations such as this, including the abuse inflicted upon children when they are forced to engage in armed conflict.

B. Concerning *Colombia*

- to affirm the concerns expressed at the conference of bishops and presidents of the LWF Latin American member churches earlier this year about the adverse effects of “Plan Colombia”, and to encourage consultation within the Lutheran communion and with its ecumenical partners, about the humanitarian implications of this policy;

- to express concern about the gravity of the situation of internally-displaced persons in Colombia and of those who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, and to call upon the ecumenical and international communities to meet the urgent needs of these people; and
- to express particular concern for the impact upon children in situations such as this, including the abuse inflicted upon children when they are forced to engage in armed conflict.

C. Concerning *Indonesia*

- to reaffirm the resolution adopted at its meeting in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, in June 1999:
 - “- to express its solidarity with the churches and people of Indonesia in the midst of the changing political, economic and social context and in facing the outbreaks of violence;
 - to encourage LWF member churches to support in prayer and in material ways the activities of the Indonesian churches to reduce religious and ethnic tensions and to promote reconciliation within Indonesian society; and
 - to urge the Indonesian government to take pre-emptive steps to prevent further violence and bring to justice those responsible for these criminal acts.”

Geneva, Switzerland
18 June 2001