



# 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, Arusha

30 June 2008

(1) The Council

### **VOTED to:**

- (2) Call upon member churches to engage in and deepen their theological and ethical reflection on the human contribution to climate change (drawing on the resources being developed through the DTS program “Responding Theologically to Climate Change”), recognizing human beings as ‘co-creatures’ with moral agency rather than claiming the prerogatives of creators, and seeking to learn from indigenous practices and traditional wisdom for living sustainably as part of Creation.
- (3) Impress upon member churches the critical urgency and unprecedented magnitude of the challenge of climate change and the threat that it poses to humanity and all living beings on Earth.
- (4) Urge member churches to move beyond lamentation to urgent and effective action, especially in relation to reducing the emissions generated by their institutional activities and operations (including travel) and promoting more sustainable lifestyles and behaviors among their members.
- (5) Request the General Secretary and LWF member churches to undertake targeted advocacy actions (together with the WCC and other ecumenical and civil society partners) in appropriate forums – including forthcoming sessions of the UN Climate Change Conference – in order to promote strong political commitments to achieving a 40% reduction compared to 1990 levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2020.
- (6) Encourage advocacy by the General Secretary and LWF member churches for rapid transition from coal and other fossil fuels for power generation to non-nuclear renewable energy sources, and for the application of a “carbon tax”.
- (7) Call upon the General Secretary, LWF member churches and LWF field programs to consolidate and enhance their efforts to address the impacts of climate change on development and poverty in the most vulnerable communities, and to promote effective national and international responses to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- (8) Ask the General Secretary to implement a CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compensation system for LWF air travel, using appropriate LWF projects, at the latest by the beginning of 2009, and invite all member churches to use this CO<sub>2</sub> emission compensation system for their air travel.



- (9) Request the General Secretary to take other actions necessary to reduce the carbon footprint of the LWF secretariat, including considering the following actions with regard to Assembly preparation:
- reducing the number of printed documents and offering the option of digital or paper documents;
  - providing all digital documents on a memory stick; and
  - preparing Assembly delegates and participants for a more digitalized Assembly by organizing as part of the pre-Assembly meetings, training workshops on on-line communication.
- (10) Request the General Secretary to produce and disseminate to member churches a briefing paper on climate change and possible responses by the churches.

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