



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 the Global Food Crisis

LWF Council, Arusha

30 June 2008

(1) The Council

VOTED to:

- (2) Express its grave concern at the recent exceptional increases in the price of basic food commodities around the world and the impact on the poorest and most vulnerable communities and individuals in our societies, on efforts to promote human development in many of the poorest countries, and on political stability in the worst affected countries.
- (3) Emphasize that the current food crisis is a reality and not a short-term anomaly, but the result of longstanding and deeply entrenched policies, trends and structural injustices (related to land access and use, agricultural production methods and subsidies, diversion of productive agricultural land for bio-fuel crops, international trade and speculation in agricultural commodities, urbanization and growing demand resulting from rising living standards), exacerbated by climate change.
- (4) Declare that the essential tasks of providing basic nutrition to people and ensuring food security cannot be left to the mercy of the market, and insist that promoting and protecting the right to food is a fundamental responsibility of government.
- (5) Express concern and continue to study the ethical and distribution issues related to genetically-modified seeds and organisms in the context of the current food crisis, and to express serious reservations about whether such controversial technologies can provide a viable or acceptable solution to the problem.
- (6) Request the General Secretary to ensure that the LWF's portfolio of development projects and programs include a strong focus on promoting food sovereignty in staple foods.
- (7) Request LWF member churches and the General Secretary to engage in relevant advocacy and other actions to promote the localization (rather than globalization) of agricultural production (especially of staple food crops), the elimination of subsidies for bio-fuel production, the recognition and implementation of the right to food, and international trade policies that do not undermine food sovereignty and the right to food.
- (8) Begin a process of gathering experience and insights of member churches and LWF field programs with regard to food production and food sovereignty as preparation for discussion and action at the LWF Assembly in 2010.
- (9) Request the General Secretary to produce and disseminate to member churches a briefing paper on food sovereignty.

