



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Office of the
General Secretary

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THE WORLD NEEDS ROBUST IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT

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The Lutheran World Federation is committed to addressing climate change. Climate change represents a challenge of enormous proportions with concrete impacts felt everywhere, but hitting disproportionately those who are often the least responsible for it, first and foremost the poor. This is why for The Lutheran World Federation climate change is an issue of justice.

The Lutheran World Federation, together with ecumenical and interfaith partners, played an important role in advocating for an agreement that recognizes inter-generational justice and is responsive to the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable communities. It welcomed the Paris Agreement adopted in the year 2015 as a historic agreement and a starting point for action to follow.

Negotiations are under way in Bonn, Germany, to develop the modalities, procedures, and guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement – otherwise known as the “rulebook”. An ambitious rulebook would offer a strong framework for action, allowing for an effective and just implementation of the Agreement, in particular in the view of keeping the temperature rise well below 2°C, and pursuing efforts to respect the 1.5°C temperature limit.

The next meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is scheduled to take place on 3 – 14 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland. It is expected to finalize and adopt this so-called “rulebook,” and to close the Talanoa Dialogue which has been taking stock of global climate action.

Unfortunately, negotiations have been slow. Some have been trying to obstruct them. And issues stand in the way: the current level of ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is dramatically inadequate, putting the world on a 3°C warming trajectory. In addition, there is a weakened commitment of developed nations to fund adaptation and mitigation measures.

Against this background, The Lutheran World Federation:

- Urges governments around the table in Bonn to preserve the integrity of the Paris Agreement and make progress towards the adoption of an ambitious and robust “rulebook” at COP24.
- Calls upon its member churches, civil society groups, and individual citizens to continue mounting pressure on their respective governments to play a constructive and solution-oriented role at the negotiation tables towards a strong Paris Agreement rulebook.
- Commits to continue addressing climate change, drawing from its faith conviction that ‘creation is not for sale’ (LWF Twelfth Assembly, 2017).

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. (Psalm 24)