# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR WORLD SERVICE

# I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

# II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION BY THE COUNCIL

The Committee for World Service wishes to comment the Council Exhibit 9.3 *“Towards a Sustainable Projection of the LWF and its Communion Office”* underlining the importance for the Department for World Service of continuing to be based in Geneva.

The Committee for World Service specifically referred to the following paragraph:

***6.2.2.2 Identifying required conditions and assessing alternative options for the location of the CO and its organizational setup***

*There are strong historic reasons for the CO to be located in Geneva. The ecumenical motivations for the LWF to be located in the Ecumenical Center, alongside WCC and the ACT Alliance, have been explained earlier. Furthermore, the LWF’s commitment to serve refugees and displaces persons, and act on its commitment to human rights, makes it essential for the LWF to have a presence in the city where the major UN bodies related to this work are headquartered.*

The committee adds that other important networks such as ICVA, SCHR and CHS are also located in Geneva and are important for the work of the Department for World Service, as is Switzerland’s neutral status and the fact that Geneva is the global humanitarian capital.

The options could include decentralizing or partially decentralizing certain functions, for example finance or IT.

## III. ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEE - for information to the Council

The Committee for World Service meets twice yearly. This year, the first meeting of the CWS was held on 20-22 January 2015 in Montreux, Switzerland. The following issues were discussed:

1. **Reports of the Department for World Service Management Team, June-December 2014**

The Committee for World Service received the reports from the Interim Director for World Service, the Interim Global Program Coordinator, the Finance Coordinator and the Quality Assurance and Accountability Officer with appreciation.

1. **Country Strategies**

The Committee for World Service approved the Laos Strategy 2015-2020 and the Burundi Strategy 2015-2020.

1. **Country Evaluations**

The Committee for World Service received the Burundi evaluation, the Uganda evaluation and the Mauritania evaluation with appreciation.

1. **Exoneration Policy**

The Committee for World Service discussed and approved the Exoneration Policy.

The second meeting took place in the context of this LWF Council meeting on 19-20 June 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland, and the following issues were discussed:

1. **President’s Address, Report of the General Secretary and Report of the Chairperson for the Finance Committee**

The Committee for World Service thanked the President for his address as well as the General Secretary and the Chairperson for the Finance Committee for their reports and, although there was not much time for discussion, received the address and reports with appreciation.

1. **Reports of the Department for World Service Management Team, January-June 2015**

The Committee for World Service received the reports from the Interim Director for World Service, the Interim Global Program Coordinator and the Finance Coordinator with appreciation.

1. **LWF Associate Programs**

The Committee for World Service discussed findings of the Associate Programs review done in the past 6 months and gave recommendations on the way forward.

1. **Country Evaluation**

The Committee for World Service received the Colombia evaluation with appreciation.

1. **Country Strategies**

The Committee for World Service approved the Colombia Strategy 2016-2021, the Uganda Strategy 2015-2020 and the Mauritania Strategy 2016-2021.

1. **Central services charges**

The Committee for World Service recommends to the LWF Communion Office Leadership Team that a study of the central services charge be undertaken by the end of 2016.

1. **Growth of the Department for World Service**

Given the considerable growth of the Department for World Service, the Committee recommends that the Department for World Service consider the establishment of a finance and risk advisory group(s) to advise the Department for World Service and its Committee for World Service.

1. **Director of the Department for World Service**

The Committee congratulates and welcomes Maria Immonen as the Director of the Department for World Service, and the first woman to hold this position.

1. **Finance Coordinator of the Department for World Service**

The Committee for World Service expressed deep appreciation for the work of the Finance Coordinator of the Department for World Service over the last 11 years in Geneva.

**IV. ISSUES REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

1. **Implementation of the Communion Office Operational Plan 2014**

The Committee for World Service endorses the Implementation of the Communion Office Operational Plan 2014 for the Department for World Service with appreciation as reflected in the Council Exhibit 9.1.

1. **LWF Budget 2016 and Program Plan 2016**

The Committee for World Service endorses the approval of the LWF Budget 2016 and Program Plans 2016 of the Department for World Service in the amount of EUR 107,473,929 as reflected in the Council Exhibits 12 and 12.1.

1. **Accounting standards**

The Committee for World Service recommends to the LWF Finance Committee to consider if the current accounting standards are the most appropriate for this kind of organization by end of 2015. This is said in the context of negative reserves being recorded for most departments under the current accounting standards.

**V. ISSUES REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP**

No issues were referred to other committees.