

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

### On Reconciliation with respect to Genocide in Namibia

- 1) With our host churches in Namibia, we have rejoiced in their journey of liberation and independence. LWF is humbled to be acknowledged for its contributions to this journey through actions of accompaniment, support and solidarity. That accompaniment continues today.
- 2) The LWF has also become aware of the painful events of history that continue clouding the memory of Namibians.
- 3) The fate of the Herero, Nama and other indigenous people under the rule of German colonial powers at the beginning of the 20th century continues causing pain among Namibian and German people until today.
- 4) The LWF knows from similar experiences around the world that painful memories won't go away until they are addressed. Only when the truth has been told and justice is sought can genuine reconciliation over the pains of the past take place.
- 5) We are encouraged to know that the Namibian and German governments have taken up this pain and are committed to a process of telling the truth and doing justice in view of what they both call today a genocide against the Herero, Nama and other indigenous people.
- 6) We are grateful for the role of churches and civil society groups that have promoted and continue supporting processes of reconciliation and healing of memories.
- 7) Accompanying its member churches in Namibia and Germany, the LWF has come to understand the uniqueness of this specific process. There are no standard, ready-made solutions to be applied from other similar processes in the world, nor models to be simply transferred and adopted.
- 8) Namibians and Germans through their dialogue process need to identify and agree on how the history will be told, how justice will be done, and how reconciliation will be promoted.

- 9) Together with encouraging Namibians and Germans to further pursue their dialogue process, the LWF is committed to offer accompaniment and support, if called upon by our respective constituencies. As a communion with a passion for justice, peace and reconciliation, the process among Namibians and Germans is at the heart of its vocation.

*Adopted by the LWF Twelfth Assembly 15 May 2017.*