



Record of ACT Development Assembly

4-7 February 2007, Nairobi, Kenya

Record of ACT Development Assembly

4-7 February 2007, Nairobi, Kenya.

Monday February 5

Regional Meetings were held:

- Africa and the Middle East
- Asia
- Eastern Europe
- Western Europe
- Latin America
- North America/Australia/Aotearoa New Zealand

There was a social event off campus at Presbyterian Church East Africa in Mathare North with singers, musicians, dancers and acrobats from 'Slum Code', projects of the National Council of Churches of Kenya.

Tuesday February 6, morning session

Opening worship included a welcome and reflection by Bishop Mvume Dandala, General Secretary, All Africa Conference of Churches and host for the Assembly (see Appendix 1).

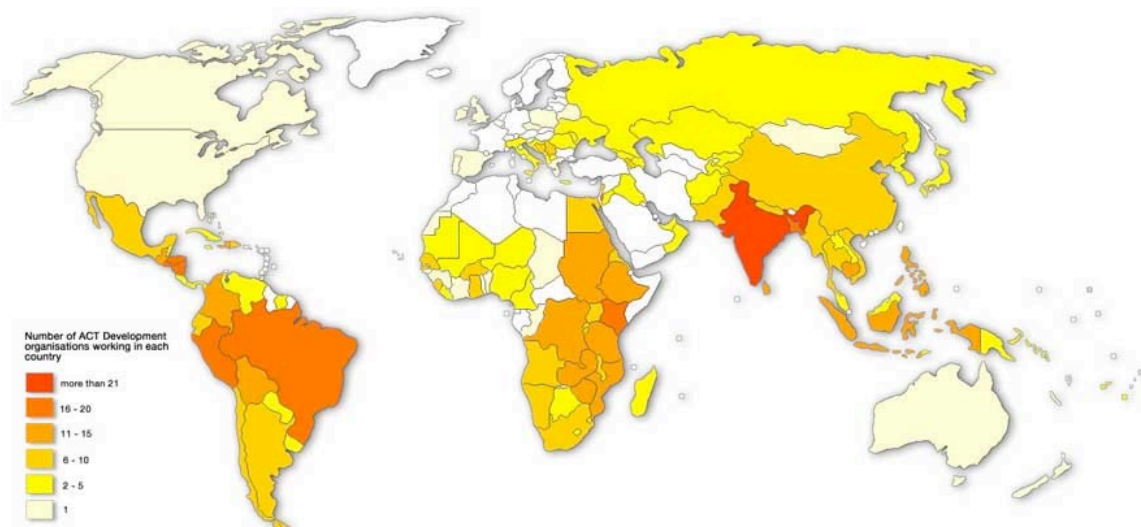
Dr William Temu, Convenor of the ACT Development Steering Group welcomed everyone to this first Assembly.



Presentation by Rev Dr Samuel Kobia, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches: **'The Ecumenical Movement Responding to the Challenges of Today's World'** (see Appendix 2).

Report from outgoing Steering Group by Dr William Temu (see Appendix 3). Donna Derr, co-chairing with William Temu, introduced Sean Hawkey announcing his recent appointment as the Communications Officer for ACT Development. Sean made a presentation based on information from the application forms, entitled **'Who Are We As An Alliance?'**

The presentation outlined that the ACT Development alliance is currently comprised of 55 organisations working in 157 countries with more than 14,000 staff and a combined budget calculated to be in excess of USD 800 million dedicated to development work. It showed the extent of membership overlap with ACT International and the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and reviewed the reasons given for wanting to belong to the alliance, what organisations thought they brought and what they hoped to gain from being part of the alliance. The map below indicates the number of organisations working per country.



Tuesday February 6, afternoon session

Business Session for Endorsement of Nominations Committee

William Temu thanked organisations putting forward people for the nominations committee, as this makes them ineligible for the Executive Committee. He then ran through the paper regarding the elections for the Executive Committee and emphasised that the slate procedure does not allow discussion on individual names.

Questions for clarification included whether self-nomination by organisations should be valid; if it was possible to extend membership of the Nominations Committee; and if it was possible to extend the number on the Executive Committee.

William responded that the stated imperfections in the system were recognised, and were inevitable given the speed of work, but the wisdom of dealing with them in detail during the assembly was questionable on account of the volume of work to be done. It was further said that changes to procedure, as well as other recommendations from the regional groups, might best be considered at length by the new Executive Committee.

Motion: to affirm the proposed Nominations Committee of:

Rev Silvio Schneider, Fundação Luterana de Diaconia (Brazil) - Convenor
Mr Jonathan Fletcher, Christian World Service (Aotearoa New Zealand)
Ms Sheila Jones, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) (India)
Ms Alison Kelly, Christian Aid (UK and Ireland)

The motion was carried unanimously

A second motion, to affirm the proposed procedures, generated discussion. A geographic breakdown of nominees was requested and given, then the questions focused again on extending the Executive Committee beyond 10 members, to allow for geographical and other balances.



It was replied by William Temu and Donna Derr, co-chairing, as well as from Steering Group members, that it wasn't felt proper to move away from what was established in the *Guide to ACT Development*, which serves as the basis for participation and the Assembly. However, it was noted that the Assembly does have the ultimate say and the power to change procedures. It was also said that 10 Executive Committee members is a higher proportion of the total eligible votes of the assembly (around 25%) than in ACT International or EAA. A vote was therefore taken:

Motion: to accept the procedures for the election as outlined in the document 'Election of the Executive Committee (2007-9) for ACT Development'

In favour: 24
Against: 5
Abstaining: 5

The motion was carried

Future Programmatic Direction

A presentation was given by Jill Hawkey of the paper '*Future Programmatic Direction and Activity Plan 2007-9*'



Questions for clarification on the presentation were few and Donna Derr asked the assembly to proceed to seven small groups and use a traffic light system to prioritise the elements of the plan with red, orange and green stickers.

The groups reported back and it was agreed that a Synthesis Committee would be facilitated by Hans Bruning to provide a report.

The day closed with worship.

Wednesday February 7, morning session

Morning Worship

Report from the Synthesis Committee on Future Programmatic Direction

Hans Bruning and Alistair Gee reported on behalf of the Synthesis Committee.

Hans noted that there is a need for participants of ACT Development to be flexible, as there are many priorities for the Secretariat.

A number of common themes emerged from the small groups:

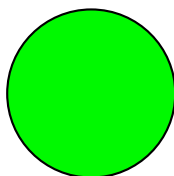
1. There is considerable focus on institutional aspects, which is not surprising, considering ACT Development is a new alliance.
2. We need to develop good procedures for involving participants in ACT Development and the sharing of information.
3. There were different views on the issue of theological reflection: some asked for more, others for less. We need a clear vision on how to deal with this issue and to recognise the differences.
4. Development itself has many different stages, and questions were raised about the definition of development. What is our common conceptual understanding of what constitutes development?

Added to this question is the need to illustrate the definition with clear topics. Some suggested a focus on climate change; others for instance our post 9-11 world.

5. Many of the tasks to be undertaken recognise the family we are and the family we relate to, in particular ACT International, LWF, WCC and EAA. It is clear that relationships have to be resolved and especially our stand on advocacy. A major focus needs to be a possible merger between ACT Development and ACT International.
6. Branding and co-branding is also important.
7. Much work needs to be undertaken on clarifying national and regional fora.
8. The Assembly - perhaps 2010 is too late, or even too early. While there is a lot of work involved in organising the Assembly, we may need to come together again before 2010.

Alistair Gee noted that the Synthesis Report covers 72 comments, 20 proposed amendments and 16 general comments about the work plan (a full copy of the Synthesis Report is available from the Secretariat).

**72 stickers were used;
63 green priority stickers,
14 'proceed-with-caution' amber stickers and
2 red stickers.**



Priority Areas

The activities which received the highest number of green stickers (4) were:

1. A paper documenting ACT Development's **understanding of development** (1c). Comments included:
 - We need to have a common understanding of what we mean by development - and we should not become a sum of our organisations' various approaches.
 - This may require more than small group discussion.
 - Proposed amendment: Create a mechanism to inform the discussions and debates in ACT Development in response to major new trends

and developments directly impacting the work of ACT Development (e.g. climate change, post 9/11 security etc). The theological reflection discerning the unique interpretation and role of ACT Development membership should be an integral part of this.

2. A global initiative to develop a joint understanding and criteria for **impact assessment** (1f). Comments included:

- Consider at regional and sub-regional level.
- It should not be only impact assessment, but also impact and outcome.

3. Work with ACT International to develop a mechanism to ensure **continuity from relief to development** by identifying emergency situations where a coordinated approach is required to long-term development cooperation following the end of an ACT appeal (3c).

4. Work with ACT International to develop a **common brand identity** for the two ACT alliances and guidelines for the use of the ACT name and logo (5a).

Comments included

- It is necessary to use the family brand name to ensure collaboration and ensuring good fundraising.

7 activities got 3 green stickers each. These were:

1. Develop and implement a strategy to ensure that **all staff** of participating organisations are knowledgeable about ACT Development and are aware of the Code of Good Practice (1a).

- An addition for 2008 was proposed: to remain open for membership and have a review of membership status and encourage more organisations to join ACT Development.

2. Foster an action oriented approach to learning through **establishing communication mechanisms** (print, email and web) for collecting and communicating the experience and learnings of participants (1g).

Comments included:

- A communications and technical consultant should assist (as modelled with co-branding).
- An on-line info-base to share resources is a priority.

3. Facilitate participants with an interest in selected countries to meet and explore **future collaboration** (2c)

Comments included:

- Consider at regional and sub-regional level also.

4. Support **national level fora** to map out current work being undertaken by participants and to identify where increased cooperation would enhance their effectiveness (3a)

Comments included:

- Consider at regional and sub-regional level also.
- Is 10 fora too ambitious for 2007?
- Should there also be regional fora? Issue based fora?
- How will co-operation be defined in countries where there are no local members of ACT Development? It is important that the Executive Committee carefully consider north/north, north/south and south/south cooperation and clarify the differences.

5. Development of a **web-strategy** (2007) and then a web-site (2008) (5c)

Comments included:

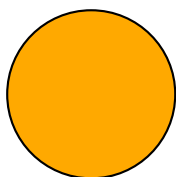
- This needs to be part of an overall communication strategy.
- Move forward on web-based discussion and dialogue.

6. **Introduce ACT Development** to significant global and regional bodies engaged in development. Identify who takes responsibility for maintaining these relationships (participants or Secretariat). (5e)

Comments included:

- Link to advocacy strategy.
- High priority for 2007.

7. Ensure **financial security** for the Alliance and its activities through ensuring payment of participation fees and supplementary contributions and annual reporting on the use of the funds.



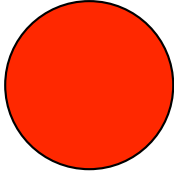
Proceed with caution

The greatest number of amber stickers were associated with the proposal to produce a regular Ecumenical World Poverty Report. This was because:

- The programme plan for the WCC lists the same activity.
- What is relevant to us is to better understand what we mean by poverty as a definition.
- Perhaps focus on our own interpretation of existing international reports.
- A suggested amendment was 'to establish a small working group to develop the concept of ACT Development producing a regular global report for collective advocacy and branding'.

Caution was also expressed with regards to the development of a complaints procedure and sanctions mechanism. It was suggested that:

- This should wait until ACT Development is more fully established.
- There needs to be clear indicators of what good practice is.
- As sanctions are punitive, they should be a last step. There needs to be a process which includes conflict resolution before sanctions are applied.



Red Stickers

Two red stickers were associated with having specific consultations with EAA. This does not mean 'no' to the idea, but rather that ACT Development should be interacting with EAA all the time.

The following proposed activities were not considered priorities (and did not receive stickers of any colour):

- Surveying participants as to issues/ areas of work that they would like further information and training on.
- The development of a database of staff within participating organisations with specialist skills/ knowledge.
- Working with participating organisations with particular expertise to develop workshop/ training packages for use within national fora.
- Keeping abreast of, and building relationships with other ecumenical and civil society organisations undertaking development- related advocacy.

General comments from the groups:

- The groups all supported the document for vision, mission and goals and also endorsed the goals for the years 2007-9.
- Well written, clear, concise.
- Ambitious, but not too ambitious.
- More networking needed to achieve activities (participants must commit to performing activities themselves rather than leaving all to the Secretariat).
- Is staff capacity adequate? If not, priorities need to be set.
- There is a lack of funding for programming – which should start now?
- It is important that in the objectives we stress the value/importance of working with local development organisations and the importance of capacity development. One way could be for the Executive Committee to look at the framework for development that is based on participatory approaches. The Executive Committee needs to define how inclusive or exclusive ACT Development should be.



What is Missing from the Plan?

- A gender perspective needs to be emphasised throughout the work of ACT Development.
- A plan (for all of us) is needed for attracting new participants. We need to be strategic about where to seek participants. Potential participants need to receive regular information and communication. We also need to develop a strategy to include francophone participants.
- Need to explore possibilities of joint fundraising of the members of ACT Development.
- No activity about theological reflection. Should WCC provide research, linking us to theological texts?

Greater Clarity is Required Regarding:

- National and Regional fora: sharing terms of reference for national fora is needed. How will national fora and WCC roundtables work together?
- Advocacy: we need to begin by developing an approach to advocacy rather than only focusing on specific issues e.g. how does advocacy integrate into the overall mandate and plan of ACT Development? Our relationship with ACT International also needs to be considered (will it effect ACT International's neutrality?)
- Given that the Assembly meets once in 3 years, it is important to have a process to ensure that members have space and are heard in decision making processes which are strong, clear, transparent and participatory. This is extremely important for participants to have space in decision making and to feel ownership of the alliance and its work.

Further Development of the Plan

- The management plan needs to reflect priorities
- We need to review and measure success of annual activities in this plan.
- Using a logical framework would be beneficial with indicators to measure results
- Institution building plan to be clarified (approach & steps)
- Do we need a baseline survey?
- The entire plan needs to be reviewed to ensure consistent use of terminology

Discussion

There was a call for the Assembly to approve the work plan and not just the report. Jill responded that the Work Plan would now be revised in light of the comments from the group. The Assembly needs to approve the programmatic directions rather than the finalised work plan itself. It was agreed that the Synthesis Committee would work further on a detailed report.

Regional Group reports

Western Europe: It was a good opportunity to get to know each other better: one of the purposes of the group discussion. The group touched on a number of issues without reaching specific agreements. However, it was felt that there was a need for a set of guidelines for approval of how we could work and with whom. There was a general feeling and desire to go ahead with co-branding and developing a mechanism for sanctions.

Africa and Middle East: Membership fees need further discussion - could they be paid in instalments over the year? It was noted that the region was not on the Nominations Committee, and that francophone Africa was not represented in the Assembly.

Co-branding could be expensive and have serious financial implications in Africa and the Middle East. There was also a need to clarify the role of northern participants in national/ regional fora.

Two expectations were raised: the capacity of southern participants to fundraise should be improved, and on the issue of standardisation and capacity building, we need to ensure that 'Northern' standards are not forced on the South.

Eastern Europe: The most important discussion was on how to increase the number of participants in this region. Possible future members of the Executive Committee were also discussed .

Latin America: There were 15 people in the group. Theological rationale was felt to be very important, as was the role of the WCC. It is also important to discuss the concept of development in the region. How can we establish dialogue with the Europeans? The experience of PAD in Brazil shows what is possible when Europeans and Brazilians work together. Another question from the group was on how to build ACT Development on existing structures.



The concept of development had to take into account the new social, economic and cultural situations in the region. It is important to identify how ACT Development can be part of the agenda of the World Social Forum in order to strengthen ecumenical work. Another important need is to strengthen communication for ACT Development in the region.

The issue of nominations for Latin America was discussed and a proposal was made to extend the number of seats on the Executive Committee from 10 to 12. It was felt that this was not only an issue of participation, but also a strategic one, taking into account the many and different actors relating to the network.

A need was also expressed for a good system of evaluation and monitoring.

Asia: The group used the opportunity to get to know more about each other's programmes. The group believed that there was scope for improvements of the actions and guidelines, the electoral process, the issue of co-branding with regard to needs.

Additionally, clarity was sought on the 'validity' of the Guidelines Booklet. Can some parts of it be amended? The booklet needs to include the context, history of the process and the 'why' of ACT Development.

North America and Australasia: 8 people from Canada, the United States, Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand met. They looked at common tasks that they could focus on. There were high expectations. Concerns were also raised, such as the need to ensure that ACT Development is a place for genuine reflection, accompaniment and dialogue and that this is not only the responsibility of the Secretariat. The role of the churches and specialised ministries as participants and observers in the decision making process needs to be clarified. An example was given of a church that had applied and not been granted membership - this would be taken up at the appropriate level.

The issue of the participation fee, and the possibility of other ways in which to do this, such as subsidies for instance, would be taken up with the Executive Committee. This is to ensure that some that may be eligible for membership don't miss out. Also of concern is the absence of any Pacific members. The importance of ACT Development remaining flexible and part of a dynamic process was stressed, so as not to become overly bureaucratic.

Nominations Committee Report

The convenor of the Nominations Committee was asked to present their report. Humberto Shikiya proposed that before the report was heard that we ask the new Executive Committee to consolidate the bringing together of ACT International and ACT Development under one umbrella within the next 18 months. He proposed that:

- the new merged organisation (of the two ACTs together) should consider an Executive Committee with a larger number of seats to represent the interests of the combined alliances
- the Executive Committee convene an extra-ordinary assembly to consider and approve the new proposal of a combined alliance. If this proves too expensive then ample consultations should take place.

The proposal was seconded and supported from the floor. The question about the number of people on the Executive Committee was raised again.

After taking a few minutes to consider this, the Steering Committee responded that there were two proposals. One was regarding the number of seats on the Executive Committee. The other, relating more to the future relationship between ACT International and ACT Development, needed to be addressed during the Joint Working Group's presentation. As a matter of procedure, to reconsider the decision of the previous day on the number of seats on the Executive Committee, would require a 2/3 majority vote, and the nominations process would not be re-opened, but that rather the slate would be drawn from the existing group of nominees.

There was no consensus on whether a 2/3-majority was required or a simple majority. This was put to the vote:

In favour of a 2/3 majority vote: 11 votes

In favour of a simple majority vote: 20 votes

It was therefore determined that the following motion would be considered passed if a simple majority was achieved.

Motion: That the number of people elected to the Executive Committee be extended from 10 to 12:

In Favour: 25

Against: 9

Abstentions: 1

The motion was carried

The Nominations Committee was therefore requested to continue their deliberations and prepare a 12 person slate for consideration by the Assembly.

What Will ACT Development Look Like at the National Level?

Jill gave a powerpoint presentation based on the paper, *What Will ACT Development Look Like at the National and Regional Level?* She noted that although the paper focused on the national level, the same principles could hold true for the regional level.



Plenary then broke into small groups tasked to discuss the following points:

Do the groups agree with the criteria on activities, and the process of approval?

There was broad agreement and comments from 11 small groups. All comments made by multiple groups are included here:

- Though several groups felt that each forum should be free to agree on a process that meets its needs best, others called for a standard format that could be adapted locally, others called for explicit guidance, and some called for the lessons learnt in early experiences to be passed on.
- Leadership in the national fora should come from local participants, as opposed to international participants active in a country. However in the instance where there are no local/ national ACT Development participants (e.g. Somalia) it is suggested that existing participants encourage eligible organisations to apply for participation.

- The question arose as to whether our principles exclude other faith groups from participating at the national level. The answer is 'No' so it was proposed that the phrase, "any faith-based organisation" be added to the criteria for participation in the fora.
- Relationships with other social fora, networks and movements, such as the UN and the Catholic Church should also be considered and advantage taken of the contextual analysis work being done by others. This is especially important for advocacy.
- It should be an obligation for all participants and observers to be part of national and regional fora. Opting out of a forum defeats the purpose of ACT Development.
- A question was raised on how to fund and administer joint programmes - there was a need for thorough thinking related to this.

In thinking about one's own countries, how should national fora relate to ACT International and the WCC Roundtables?

- Interaction with ACT International fora is considered relevant and important, some said it should be "seamless". However some groups urged caution with respect to relating directly to WCC Roundtables that were focused primarily on fundraising.
- Putting activities together, to culminate in joint ACT programmes was considered a key vehicle for impact, joint learning, advocacy and visibility.

From the paper on Future Programme Directions, it was proposed that 5 to 10 national fora start during 2007. The point was made that it was not up to the Executive Committee or the Secretariat to decide this, but rather the participants). Participants were asked to consider which countries would be good for starting the process of national fora.

- Some consideration should be given for thematic fora, on issues such as HIV and AIDS, and not necessarily only geographic fora.
- The map of where ACT Development organisations work will be useful in this respect.
- South Asian and francophone countries, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Southern Africa where there are very active fora already were all suggested.

What support (not financial) would the participants and observers need from the Executive Committee and the Secretariat.

- There should be support for the communications work being done in the regions.

Jill responded briefly after groups concluded reporting back. The paper will be re-written based on these responses. It is now up to participants to talk together about the possibility of establishing national and regional fora. Ideas shared with the Secretariat could be shared with all participants to keep everyone in touch.



Nominations Committee Report

Silvio Schneider, Convenor of the Nominations Committee, gave a brief background report. This included the first telephone conference on January 26, the process of identifying the nominations, including the withdrawals and the need to find an additional nominee from Africa, as well as a woman.

The final slate the Committee is proposing has the following regional breakdown: 1 Asia, 2 Africa and the Middle East, 2 Latin America, 1 Eastern Europe, 1 North America and Australasia, 3 Western Europe and 1 Global

The Committee proposes that because of the shortage of women on the slate that the Executive Committee keep open one seat for a woman considering regional and skills aspects when putting forward nominees.

The proposed slate covers the following skills considered important for the Executive Committee:

- Strategic planning
- Development programmes
- Relief and rehabilitation programmes
- Ecumenical relations
- Organisational development
- Fundraising
- Formation process of ACT Development
- Gender
- Financial management

A slide was put up on the screen with the names of the nominees.

A.G. Augustine Jeyakumar, United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India
Hans Bruning, ICCO, the Netherlands
Nora Coloma, Comunidad Cristiana Mesoamerica, Central America
Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel, Bread for the World, Germany
Eberhard Hitzler, The Lutheran World Federation, Global Organisation
Elizabeth Kaseke, Christian Care, Zimbabwe
Dragan Makojevic, Philanthropy Charitable Fund of the Serbian Orthodox Church
Rick Santos, Church World Service, USA
Humberto Shikiya, CREAS, Latin America
Atle Sommerfeldt, Norwegian Church Aid
Haftu Woldu Teshalle, Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission

The point was made that voters were only allowed to ask questions on balances, tools and criteria, and not the individuals.

Voting on the slate as a whole

In favour: 30
Against: 0
Abstentions: 2

The new Executive Committee was officially welcomed and recognised.

Thanks were given again for the work done by the Nominations Committee and the organisations that allowed the members to participate.



Joint Working Group Report

The Joint Working Group (Christer Åkesson and John Nduna for ACT International, Jack van Ham and Jill Hawkey for ACT Development, Linda Hartke for the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and William Temu for the World Council of Churches) presented their report as a panel.

Christer Åkesson gave a presentation on the work of the Joint Working Group starting with the decision at Bossey that... *“long term, the ideal model is to bring together ecumenical work with emergencies, advocacy and development under a common umbrella with a common brand name, preferably Action by Churches Together”* and saying that ACT International and ACT Development continue to work towards the long-term vision of being a single alliance called ACT.

Christer mentioned that being a single alliance requires commitment to:

- develop a single criteria for ‘membership’ in the ACT alliance
- work towards a joint secretariat for the ACT alliance
- the governing bodies of ACT International and ACT Development working together
- all policy decisions regarding brand, image and visibility being considered and made jointly with ACT International

He noted that there were a number of issues that required further work and invited other members of the Joint Working Group to present them:

1. Advocacy

Linda Hartke gave a short presentation highlighting the reasons that the Ecumenical Advocacy Committee, together with the governance bodies of ACT Development and ACT International felt that EAA did not fit comfortably within the ACT Alliance. EAA has a valuable and very broad participation base including many participants who do not meet the criteria for participation in ACT Development or ACT International. Working towards common membership criteria with the two ACTs would threaten the integrity of EAA's broad participation and may give the wrong message to the wider ecumenical family.

Linda also noted that significant work still needed to be undertaken on ACT Development's advocacy role.

2. Organisational Structure

John Nduna, Director of ACT International, recapped some of the discussions and brainstorming that has taken place to date. These include the notion of one Executive Committee, one Director for the whole ACT and two areas of work - emergencies and development, with a head of each department. It may also be appropriate to look at forming groups that would play an advisory role in governance with specific skills related to development and emergencies.

There would be common services - finance and communications - not linked to either of the two ACTs, but as common services for the whole alliance. Practically, the two ACTs are hoping to occupy the same offices, and share some services, together with EAA.

Christer noted that other issues include:

- Legal: ACT International is 11 years old - and a registered body with the Swiss authorities - what would it mean to the bylaws and regulations?
- Funding mechanism: the fact that ACT International is a funding mechanism for its members in emergencies and ACT Development is not - how would this work out practically in the office?

Christer also noted that from the beginning of the discussion there was always an expressed desire to be a recognisable organisation. Today with ACT Development having a newly elected Executive Committee, it is important for ACT Development and ACT International to start as soon as possible with joint meetings and to design a strategy to create this one recognisable worldwide organisation.

He therefore put the following motion to the Assembly:

1. That the ACT Development Executive Committee enter into discussions with ACT International on its structural relationship
2. That the final decision regarding the structural relationship with ACT International needs the approval of the ACT Development Assembly.

Christer also reminded participants that this Assembly can only speak for ACT Development, and not for ACT International which has its own Emergency Committee meeting in April.

Discussion

- There was a suggestion that the ACT International Emergency Committee and the ACT Development Assembly meet together.
- A request was made that the aspirational goals be explained of how two different 'cultures' can be merged into one organisation.
- Clarification was sought on the objective of the planned global advocacy group. Linda responded that the idea was to bring together the four global ecumenical structures (WCC, EAA, ACT International and ACT Development) to share information on the advocacy being undertaken, key dates and ensure that we are not making competing demands on members in terms of advocacy.
- A question was put about the proposed 'Star Alliance' model of being an alliance, given that what had been proposed today seemed to be a move away from this.
- The point was raised that the organisational issues according to the Joint Working Group's presentation should not become the stumbling block for creating a joint organisation, joint identity and joint brand. The presentation was described as 'encouraging' and it invited a strong statement from this Assembly.

Cornelia noted that many of these ideas have not yet been shared with the whole of the Executive Committee or Emergency Committee of ACT International, but that the Assembly was being invited into the kitchen, to view what was cooking and to see if we like the smell.

John responded that there was a good understanding of the organisational structure of both the ACTs - that we need to develop an appreciation of the differences, but also of the complementarities.

The issue of timing was raised, and in response it was clarified that although 18 months had originally been mentioned, it was not a commitment, as many legal discussions still need to take place. However, many in the Assembly were stressing the urgency of the merger.

Motion: That ACT Development enters into discussions with ACT International on the issue of a structural relationship.

In favour: 32
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1

The motion was carried

Motion: That a final decision regarding the structural relationship needs the approval of the ACT Development Assembly.

In favour: 34
Against: 2
Abstentions: 0

The motion was carried.

Christer then spoke to the Assembly as the Moderator for ACT International's Executive Committee, firstly congratulating ACT Development's new Executive Committee, and then inviting it to join the ACT International Executive Committee that evening for their first joint meeting.

Wednesday February 7, afternoon session

The Advantages of Sharing a Common Global Identity

Susanne Buchweitz, co-chair of the Communications Advisory Group introduced the session on Sharing a Common Global Identity.

She outlined the extensive consultative process of the joint pre-study that included a series of interviews as well as workshops and meetings with directors and communication officers of potential participant organisations.

She underlined the important role of the Communications Advisory Group (for ACT Development) and the Communications Reference Group (for ACT International) that worked together with the consultants and met with them in Nairobi.

Outlining the aims of the pre-study she said that *"when we talk about branding and co-branding, we are not talking about a logo. We are talking about who we are, what our values are, about our vision."*

She presented Mats Fogelberg, one of two consultant co-branding specialists who undertook the joint pre-study.

Mats Fogelberg gave his presentation. The full presentation is available on CD ROM. The following notes are a summary.

- There have been difficulties in co-branding with the ACT International brand and as a result it is still unknown to the general public. There is currently no publicly visible connection between ecumenical family members working in development and emergencies.
- As a consequence the ecumenical family appears to be a smaller and less important actor than it is.
- From a brand and communication perspective investing in many different brands is a waste of resources and it is impossible to compete with global brands.
- Nevertheless many of our participants' brands are strong locally. Therefore, there is a need to found our brand and communication strategy on the fact that the brands behind ACT are strong locally and weak globally.

The brand and communication strategy should be built on our strengths. We have:

- A permanent presence all over the world, and a long history of being there
- Strong links to people at a grass roots level
- Strong local knowledge



We should build one new brand for ACT- and focus on combining emergency, development and advocacy into one new brand. This new brand should be driven by a common vision, one set of values, one membership criteria and one brand and communication platform.

The task ahead is similar to building a team:

- there are many individual players which only together are able to win
- only those who perform at the top level can play: we have high standards and participation criteria
- If a player is not performing well then they sit on the bench for a while: we have a code of conduct, peer reviews and sanctions mechanisms
- Feeling a part of the team is crucial - every member is ACT!
- There are many differences between team players, and they have different strengths - but they play as a team.
- We will play on the strength that we are so diverse, yet are part of a team that shares a global vision and common beliefs.

In terms of a visual identity and logotype, it is proposed that ACT International and ACT Development have a new joint logotype - and that the ACT name, in a visually appealing and graphical way, is added to the existing logos of organisations (in something like way suggested in the diagram below). There will also be the flexibility to use the full name - Action by Churches Together- in any language, where necessary.

The changes should take place by 'evolution', not 'revolution'- and the gradual phasing-in of the new logo and gradual phasing-out of the existing ACT International logo was proposed in a timeframe of two or three years.



Mats recommended next steps for the joint action of ACT Development and ACT International

1. Develop an interim brand policy
2. Develop a brand and communication platform
3. Develop a visual strategy
4. Develop an internal and external communication plan
5. Develop an internal and external Web
6. Develop toolkits for participants to implement the new ACT brand within their own organisations

For the meanwhile organisations were asked to do the following:

1. to communicate their participation and the idea behind ACT Development in their ongoing communications
2. to use the written form 'ACT Development' and when appropriate, support it with Action by Churches Together in the most appropriate language
3. not to create their own ACT Development logo! We are currently not investing in an interim logotype as ACT Development, but rather are waiting until something has been finalised in terms of our relationship with ACT International.

Discussion included the following points:

Participants expressed different levels of readiness for co-branding, some raised legal issues for co-branding in their countries that have to be looked at in more detail. One organisation mentioned that the proposal made by Mats is sound, though it changes ideas they had to rename their organisation. Another questioned if branding was consistent with the values of non-profit organisations, and was assured that it was an essential expression of common identity for the alliance much in the same way as many large organisations like the Red Cross or UNICEF strengthen their networks, their fundraising and their work. Appreciation was expressed for keeping national identities, and making our diversity our strength. Someone also said that the brand promise of Christianity, the best known brand, is 'to be with the people who are suffering'.

The following motion was proposed by the co-convenors: That we accept this report with its recommended next steps and refer it to the ACT Development Executive Committee to serve as the basis for further discussion with ACT International.

In favour: 29
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

Donna noted that it is now the responsibility of the Executive Committee to come up with the plans that cover this recommendation and to keep participants informed.



Final Business Session Future Programmatic Directions

As further work was required to finalise the paper on Future Programmatic Directions, William Temu proposed that the Assembly give this responsibility to the Executive Committee

Motion: That, as one of the responsibilities of the Assembly is to approve the future directions of ACT Development, we request that the Executive Committee oversees the finalisation of a Work Plan, taking into account all of the suggestions given in response to the presentation on programmatic directions.

In favour: 31
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1

The motion was carried.

Antti Pentikäinen (FinnChurchAid) asked that the following motion be tabled (seconded by Tim McCully, Lutheran World Relief):

That the Executive Committee review the election procedure of the Executive Committee to represent better the principles and mechanisms of representative democracy.

Antti explained that it was important to know more about the people we are voting for and what they are able to bring to the Executive Committee. He suggested that people present themselves to the Assembly on the first day, and that other participants then have the opportunity to talk informally with them. After some discussion it was agreed to divide the motion into two parts, and vote initially on only the first half of the motion and then on the full motion.

First motion: that the Assembly asks the Executive Committee to review the election procedure.

In favour: 33

Against: 2

The motion was passed.

Full motion: Assembly asks the Executive Committee to review the election procedure of the Executive Committee to represent better the principles and mechanisms of representative democracy.

In favour: 7

Against: 13

Abstentions: 10

The motion was not passed.

Evaluation of the Meeting

Participants were invited to reflect on the assembly with their neighbour and then to give some comments back as a group to the plenary. One comment was echoed by others:

“We have gone from suspicion to cooperation. We have been able to feel part of a common programme as equals. We have an ExCom that is inclusive, and we are committed to build up this common identity in each one of our regions to eradicate poverty and for justice to be there”.

Some of the other comments that arose from multiple groups were:

- The chair-persons, staff, steering group and AACC and WCC were thanked
- Satisfaction was expressed that so much work was done, and such achievements were reached in such a short time
- There was a positive spirit and atmosphere, and good group discussions
- More time would have been appreciated to have deeper discussions, such as to build common understanding on poverty and development, and more time would have allowed greater flexibility in the procedures
- It was felt that Africa and the Middle East, and francophone countries were under-represented
- Gratitude was expressed for translation and simultaneous interpretation



The Assembly then gave thanks and gifts to those who had worked to make it a success.

Closing worship. The meeting closed with worship, and as participants left the hall in song, they hung 'hopes for ACT Development' on a tree in the courtyard.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Presentation by the General Secretary of the All Africa Council of Churches Rev. Dr. Mvume Dandala

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

I would like to focus briefly on the two passages that were read to us this morning. The first passage is from the Book of Gen 41: 17-36, the story of the Famine. The subtitle is "Joseph and the Famine". I would rather that it said "Pharaoh, Joseph and the Famine, because Pharaoh is indeed a key player in this passage. The passage says that Pharaoh was troubled by dreams. Through his dreams he was receiving a message that he could not decipher in his mind.

The pending Social Crisis:

In this particular instance, Pharaoh is sensing a pending social crisis. The dream comes first as a lovely dream and it then immediately changes into a nightmare. He sees beautiful fat cows coming up and promptly sees thin ugly cows, which go on to devour the good fat cows.

Then he sees good corn growing up and then promptly sees bad thin corn, which goes on to swallow up the good corn. Pharaoh is troubled. Somebody has got to explain to him what this is about.

Troubling Nightmares:

In Africa people are troubled. How I wish they were troubled by simple nightmares. It is devastating to live through a nightmare from which one is not able to wake up. When one is sleeping and has a nightmare, there is hope at least because he/she will wake up and realize that it was only a nightmare. But what if one is troubled by a nightmare from which he/she is not able to wake up?

The nightmare of my village:

I grew up in a small village in South Africa called Dutyini. My memories of that village are those of a wonderful childhood of not wanting to get up when my father wanted us to go and work in the fields. These are memories of beautiful seasons of harvest, when we would enjoy wild fruits; indeed they are memories that in my mind represent the ideal life.

But lately, I have difficulty knowing what to do with these memories. I cannot share them with my children, because, that is not what one sees at Dutyini anymore. Rather, one sees only difficulties and pain.

On the fourth of January, my wife and I drove back to Dutyini. It was about the 6th or 7th time that Dutyini has been hit by a tornado since 1997. People had died again. The first Tornado in 1997 remains etched in my mind because it was just a few months after I had taken over the leadership of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. One of the first tasks I had to perform in my new position was to go and bury 29 of my direct relatives who were killed by that tornado. In the past, the months of October to March were

enjoyed as months of ploughing, swimming; beautiful sunshine and watching the plants grow, hoeing and so on. When I now go back to my village in these months of sweet memories, I encounter a people full of fear. They know that a killer tornado may come at any time.

The reason for our visit to Dutyini on the 4th of January, 2007 was to see our people after they had been hit by another tornado in December, 2006. And on our way down there, we had one of the chiefs of the area in our car. He was going to show us the fields of the village. Suddenly, he said to us, "Do you see that cloud?" We said, "Yes", He said, "That is danger! Take me home and run home". We said, "Come on its going to be okay". He replied, "I am sorry, maybe it's going to be okay for you. But for me, I see only trouble. Take me home!" And we took him home.

And true to his word, just as we were in the middle of nowhere between his home and our home, the tornado came. We stopped the car; it felt like it was going to over turn at any moment. We were lashed by rain, as one had never encountered in that area before. Sooner than later, iron sheets, roofing sheets, were thrown everywhere and we were sitting in the car hoping against hope that we would be safe. We saw the animals running up and down in extreme panic. It was a painful sight. They were coming to find shelter under the car.

Why?

Earlier the people from my village had been interviewed on Television. I remember that their persistent questions were: "WHY? What has happened? The last 9 years have been more than torture to us. What have we done?" And I remember in one instance one of the people being interviewed saying, "we have taken a decision as a community that we will paint all our roofs dark to curb the shine. Maybe it is the shine of all these new roofs that is calling this trouble upon us". Troubled, troubled by nightmares from which they can never wake up.

The worst part was that a few weeks later I phoned and asked the Chief how things were at home? He said to me "You won't believe this, we are now dying from extreme heat and every plant we had in the field is shrivelling. We do not understand anymore. We do not know what to do. We do not know what the right thing is." And this is the most painful part of their response: "We do not know what it is that we have done to deserve this."

Questions are being asked.

At about the time I was coming back to Nairobi from home, I read in a newspaper that the Zambezi River was flooding, and that the Cahora Bassa dam in Mozambique was filling up very quickly. People were beginning to panic. They were remembering the floods that hit Mozambique a few years ago. Even then there was no rain that indicated that there would be trouble. And so the process of evacuating people from the banks of the Zambezi River had started in Mozambique.

I wonder how many of us still remember the bewildered questions of the Mozambicans during the earlier floods. "What does this mean? What is this? Why us?" Signs that are all around us..

Our people are looking for answers just like Pharaoh was looking for answers. Who can interpret these things? In sheer anger and frustration one may be led to say that if this was happening in the United States or some developed country, science would alert people to what was coming, and availability of resources in those countries would make it possible for the people to escape the consequences. But to those who are poor, who have no access to this information, that little cloud simply means nothing short of death, nothing short of total destruction.

Who will interpret this nightmare?

And so the first question I wish to pose as we launch ACT Development is, “Who will interpret the meaning of this nightmare, the nightmare of climate change with its devastating effects on the poor who have to live with its unbearable consequences?”

I was chatting with some colleagues in Europe sometime last year about research, passionately trying to make a case for research centres to be established in Africa as a priority and as a key factor in the efforts to transform the crises that we have to deal with, as well as for economic development in Africa. My colleague said to me, “Mvume, research is driven by economics...” Africa does not have an economy that is strong enough to drive such research centres, yet on the other hand Africa needs them in order to drive the new economy! My friend said, “I am sorry my friend, we are caught in the crisis of a hen and an egg, which comes first?” And I pose that question to us as we launch ACT Development: who will interpret these dreams? Will they ever make sense to us if we do not focus our efforts on making it possible for our people to read, understand and interpret the signs of these times? Can we find a way forward for an Africa that is caught in the crisis of weak economies and poor research at the same time?

Where is our answer? I say without any fear of contradiction, that unless and until the people in the developing world are assisted to interpret the signs themselves, every effort at salvaging their cause is doomed. The availability of research programmes and facilities has to be prioritized as a tool that can be put in the hands of Africans to help them deal meaningfully with these circumstances

Informed Response Action:

On receiving the interpretation Pharaoh instructed Joseph to put in place a radical step of food management for the nation! What is captivating about this plan is that it was not good merely for the people of Egypt, but others from beyond the borders of Egypt started finding their way to Egypt, because Pharaoh had had the wisdom to recognise that when the meaning of the sign has been made clear, one must sit down put in place a plan that will carry the people through the crisis on to a new land where they will continue with wholesome life. The question is whether we prioritise the need for those we work with for them to unfold new plans for a new dream?”

No honour in begging:

Please allow me to thank you friends for coming to our continent for the launch of ACT Development. You have been present with us through many crises and we appreciate that. Thank you. Please do not misunderstand me when I say that from where I stand, it is painful and frustrating to be a beggar. Hear me well. I'm not saying anybody is making Africa a beggar. You have consistently supported us requiring little in return. Your generosity is most welcome. Yet I wish for you to know the struggle in our souls. It hurts much to be helpless about one's situation. It is frustrating to look at the troubles of ones land and not know what to do without first going around saying, please come help. We as Africans need capacity to make a substantial contribution to reversing our fate. We need you to walk with us. But above all we need the confidence to know that we can respond to our crises ourselves. What person can be content knowing that he/she has no capacity even to defend his/her household during moments of crisis? Thank you for your commitment to uphold dignified relationships with Africa. But for us the pain continues.

When will Africa stand on its feet? It is a sad and painful comment on our situation that whilst friends continue to hold our hands in our troubles these never seem able to pass. Who can we hope will understand the depth of our pain and the agony of Africa's soul if not at least those with whom we are members of the body of Christ?

Our future together:

May I make a few suggestions as to how we can plan together for the future of Africa, which is also the future of the world?

Here is my first ingredient for the new plan:

- **Prioritise wellness of communities:**

We must prioritise the restoration of community life. Let us seek to restore the dignity of our communities. One of the things that the churches in Africa, can do (which I still don't believe that we have analysed carefully) is to acknowledge the role of the church in the making of colonialism and in the making of a new society in Africa. How could a few people change the whole continent in the manner in which the missionaries and the colonialists transformed the face of Africa? I know about the role of military action in the conquest of Africa. But that is not what I'm talking about today. Rather, I am talking about the capacity to change the behaviours and habits of African people. To a large extent African communities were turned around through Christian faith, and education to adapt to a new culture. Colonial governments were sustained by African people. Because of what transformation had happened to the African people themselves, they were in time able to shrug off colonialism itself from their shoulders. In the same way, nothing short of a transformation of a people and communities will make them able to reclaim the new future for themselves and their continent.

- **A common goal:**

We must endeavour as the ecumenical movement to agree on major goals for our mission, even if the actual projects may differ. We lack a common point of focus and agreement as to what should constitute our essential strategy to bring the transformation that Africa needs. Unless we together as a people find common alternative ways to globalization and the globalizing world; unless and until we are able to agree on a strategy however else it is implemented from place to place, we will not transform our situations. The essence of the missionary strategy was the common vision of evangelisation and transformation of the indigenous communities spiritually, educationally, culturally and economically. Where the Lutherans went, where the Methodists or any other denomination went and did their work, there was one binding commitment that they all equally embraced, there was the common goal that said, give them the faith, give them education, give them health and watch them take off. And I ask today, where are the key points that make us believe that when we are together like this, we are seeking to find a common mind about our calling? And may I say that perhaps the desire for a simple common purpose is the one hope that made me, in spite of all the other debates and reservations about ACT Development, to stand back and say, "Don't be a stumbling block, in case there is something of God in ACT Development." That hope for me is for collective visioning, thinking and strategising that will enable us to work in varied programmes and projects with the knowledge that at the end of the day there is a point at which we meet that is guaranteed to transform our continent. We have to agree on the priority to strengthen the communities, the people and the people's institutions.

- **Co-living and Co-sharing:**

The next thing is that we need together to think meaningfully about the principles of co-living and sharing. We have to rethink the priorities of a world that has defined poverty merely in terms of how many dollars a person earns per day. This cannot be the way of defining poverty if we are going to free people and communities from poverty. Are there no better ways by which we can think of

communities? What is a poor community? What are the facilities that make a community able to make life happen for all members? Is there no better way of looking at this situation other than one that makes each person to live for himself or herself in spite of the needs of others? Is there clarity in our minds about that? If I had the time I would develop this further, but I don't have the time.

Conclusion:

I pray to God that as we start on this new journey, we will take it upon ourselves to strengthen the voice and the power of those who are victims so that together we can speak to the powerful world in ways that will enable this powerful world to find compassion for God's creation and for God's people.

After the World Social Forum that was held here a few weeks ago, one journalist asked us the question, "Is the World Social Forum not a pointless effort? Shouldn't you all be in Davos? Shouldn't you be where the power to change things really is? What is the point of this forum? Is it a jamboree for the poor?"

And I said to myself, God help those who care for the poor to find a way to enhance the voice of the poor to shout at those who have the power, in order to force them to stop and change their thinking and their ways. I pray to God that today will be the birth of a collective, focused and consistent drive that will have capacity to bring to a halt a momentum of the apostles of the globalizing economies. I pray to God that in the name of Jesus Christ we will find together a way to show that those who live with a nightmare can be made to realize that it is only a passing phenomenon and that they will wake up to a better life with all other people and the rest of creation.

Thanks be to God.

Appendix 2

Presentation by the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia

The Ecumenical Movement Responding to the Challenges of Today's World

1. Karibu

Karibu – welcome, dear colleagues and friends!

With great pleasure, I welcome you to Kenya, my home country, and more precisely to Nairobi, our capital city. Founded in 1899 at a place that the Massai called "Cool waters" (Ewaso Nyirobi), Nairobi has become in a short period of time a sprawling city of almost three million inhabitants, a hub for business and culture as well as the host to regional and international organizations such as the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). Only weeks ago, more than 60 000 people from all over the world gathered here for the World Social Forum.

Situated at the centre of Eastern Africa and at the crossroads between the Great Lakes region, the Nile valley and the Horn of Africa, Nairobi is firmly situated on the map of regional and international politics. The fragile peace process in Sudan, the catastrophe in Darfur with its destabilizing effects on Chad, and the crisis in Somalia – all point to new

geopolitical challenges that have a profound impact on the region. In the shadow of the so-called war on terror, religious tensions take new forms. The developments in Somalia threaten to fuel already dangerous Christian-Muslim conflicts and to spark new wars in and between other countries. For many years, the rush for oil has been a major factor in the region, especially in Southern Sudan and now also in Chad. The Horn of Africa has a strategic position in regard to the Arab peninsula. Former European colonial powers, the USA and more recently China – all are competing for resources, markets and political influence. We can clearly discern in the region the growing influence of China and India as engines of global change that will shift the present global governance architecture and also the development discourse – something definitely to be taken into immediate consideration by any specialized ministry that is based in the realm of the currently dominant North-Atlantic regions.

Let me say again: “Karibu!” – this time, welcoming you in my capacity as the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC). You are colleagues and friends in the ecumenical movement. Nairobi is well known in the ecumenical movement, not least because of the Fifth General Assembly of the WCC that was held here in 1975, and, of course, because of the presence of the headquarters of the All Africa Conference of Churches. Nairobi is home to central offices of Kenyan churches, to the National Council of Churches that I served as a General Secretary, the WCC’s offices of the Ecumenical Disabilities Advocates Network and Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Initiative in Africa, as well as home to a growing number of regional or country offices of specialized ministries.

2. Challenges

Nairobi is an ecumenical city – an excellent place for the first Assembly of “*ACT Development*”. The main challenges of today’s world are clearly felt here. Among the most significant challenges are these:

- the growing gap between rich and poor,
- the impact of climate change,
- the competition for resources and markets,
- the horrors of violent conflict and war, and
- the necessity for constructive relationships between people of different religious convictions.

The melting ice-caps of Mount Kirinyaga and Mount Kilimanjaro – both visible from Nairobi on clear days – are telling us that rising temperatures will cause critical water shortages and destroy the web of life that is so critical for the survival of the poor and marginalized. We have identified poverty as a priority of development work; we learn that the fight against poverty needs to include solutions to climate change and violence. The former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called upon Heads of State gathered last year here in Nairobi, telling them:

“Global climate change must take its place alongside the threats of conflict, poverty and the proliferation of deadly weapons that have traditionally monopolized first-order political attention.”

These threats to life are interrelated, and they challenge us to move beyond our previous understanding of core tasks and priorities for development. The challenge goes deeper, much deeper than we thought it would. The situation is more critical than we tend to acknowledge: Life itself is at stake. We need to respond to this challenge together with all our imagination, capacity to reflect and to act, and all the resources available to us.

This is a matter of our faith in the God of Life and in God's Son who was sent into this world so that "creation itself will be set free from its bondage of decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). To do everything we can to restore human dignity and the integrity of life is required from us, so that God and the goodness of God's creation (Gen 1:31 ff.) may be glorified through our lives and witness. Our unity in the body of Christ (Eph 4:1 ff.) is a movement from death to life in Jesus Christ (Eph 2) that encompasses all dimensions of life. For me, this is the unifying vision of all our work in the WCC at this point in history.

Advocacy, then, has a very important theological meaning: standing before God and the world with and on behalf of suffering people and the suffering creation. The crucified and risen Christ identifies with the suffering, and speaks through them. Advocacy that takes place above the heads of the people concerned is illegitimate. Advocacy is a form of accompaniment, rooted in faith and people-centred, that does not start in the corridors of power but with people at the local level and with their struggle for life.

Advocacy is a necessary and important dimension of our witness, in which we give account of the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15) and speak truth to power (1 Kings 22:16 and John 18:37). Gandhi during his South African struggle said, "God is truth". Towards the end of his life he said, "Truth is God, Love is God, Compassion is God." Compassion and truth should therefore be manifested not only within ourselves and among members of our communities but also outwardly, as the Holy Spirit leads us into the whole world, in our work for transformation and change. Advocacy must be rooted in the vision of power derived from the gospel, a vision of power based on humility, on non-violence, on prayer and spiritual discernment. Spiritual discernment directs our attention to people's lives, to questioning trendy interpretations of economics and societies, to searching for the deeper reality that gives our advocacy depth and passion and the strength of our convictions.

Are we really ready for this? This is as much a spiritual challenge as it is a challenge to our organizations. Looking at the present situation in the ecumenical movement, Nairobi shows us, on the one hand, opportunities for successful co-operation of different sets of actors; on the other hand, we recognize past and present failures to take advantage of such opportunities to cooperate, and these failures have left us with a proliferation of parallel structures at local, regional and international levels. One thing is clear: the capacity of the ecumenical movement to respond to the challenges of today's world depends to a large extent on more creative and future-oriented forms of co-operation and networking. It is my deep desire and hope that "*ACT Development*" may contribute to achieving this. At the 9th General Assembly of the WCC a year ago in Porto Alegre, Brazil, Archbishop Desmond Tutu urged us to see that the challenges of today's world are too strong for a fragmented ecumenical movement and a divided church.

This is our situation today. We have come a long way in the several years since the first discussions on a Global Ecumenical Platform for Development. As a response to a new reality marked by economic globalization and in recognition of the clear progression in thinking from relief to development, the creation of a common platform of specialized ministries active in development concerns is long overdue.

Starting as small offices collecting money and channeling funds to local partners through the WCC, specialized ministries have steadily developed their operational capacities and have become global actors in their own right. Today, a visible presence of specialized ministries at the international level is absolutely required. Involvement in strategic global advocacy has become a must. This trend has been further strengthened because of increasing competition for donations and funds. Visibility in the global arena becomes an important aspect of our presence when our performance is judged by governments and

the wider public at home. Organizations that have established their name as a worldwide "brand" are obviously more successful in fundraising.

It was difficult for the WCC to learn this lesson. For several years, the WCC was not ready to make space for the emerging needs of specialized ministries and to understand that the time had come for new arrangements and the sharing of responsibilities. This in turn led to a very negative image of the WCC among specialized ministries. There was a real temptation to limit the role and capacity of the WCC as a competitive global actor as a result of shifts in funding and the creation of new ecumenical bodies. In addition, fruitful co-operation between specialized ministries was hindered, if not undermined, by the strong self-interest of individual organizations and because of the very different character of relationships with churches in home countries.

Indeed, there was a danger that the struggle for new arrangements would put too great a strain on the binding forces between specialized ministries and they would fall apart, and it was this threat that caused me to intervene. It is without any doubt the task of the WCC to work for the coherence of the ecumenical movement. We all need high-functioning and fully cooperative specialized ministries.

3. Fears and Hope

I am delighted that reason has prevailed. There is a strong sense that we need each other as partners in the ecumenical movement, each with specific roles and responsibilities. We have crossed an important threshold with this "*ACT Development*" Assembly. There is now the promise of increased and more carefully targeted co-operation among specialized ministries and with the WCC, its member churches and ecumenical partners; this will lead to beneficial results for our partners at grassroots and national levels.

The WCC is welcoming "*ACT Development*" into the ecumenical family and has made space for it in various ways:

- The WCC is hosting the secretariat for the first 2-5 years. Swiss law does not permit us to make this a permanent solution, but we have a small breathing space that allows us to find the best possible arrangement in the interest of those whom we are called to serve.
- The WCC has included the accompaniment of "*ACT Development*" and the task of moderating the Steering Committee in its own programme plans. The Associate General Secretary, William Temu, has taken responsibility for this dossier in the WCC, so that this commitment is lodged at the top leadership level.
- The WCC is committed to improve co-operation with specialized ministries in global advocacy and is testing various forms of co-operation, e.g. through the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, ecumenical projects such as EHAIA or the Ecumenical Water Network. We are learning a lot in evaluating strengths and weaknesses of these projects. The better we are working together, the stronger the impact among churches and the wider public will be.
- The WCC is ready not only to foster co-operation between "*ACT International*" and "*ACT Development*", but to look for closer ties between them so that we may soon reach the point at which there is only one ecumenical entity bearing the name "*ACT*".
- Most of all, the WCC invites you to explore with the churches the spirit, the identity and the transformational impact that is our shared heritage. I speak, of course, of our calling as today's disciples of the One who heals the sick, releases captives and brings good news to the poor. All the brands of your secular competitors cannot compare to this good news, nor stand the same test of time.

It must be said that such committed support for “*ACT Development*” has provoked suspicions and doubts among some member churches and ecumenical partners:

- Some are not clear about the role of the WCC in “*ACT Development*”. They wonder why the WCC is not listed as a participant or a member of “*ACT Development*”, but has offered to host the secretariat for a limited period of time. They still see the WCC and “*ACT Development*” as being in competition for the same space and are afraid of possible negative consequences for the WCC and themselves. It is indeed a concern that one of the “*ACT Development*” founding partners has decreased funding to the WCC because of its involvement in “*ACT Development*”. These fears are also motivated by the assumption that, if they are not directly represented by the WCC, churches may lose opportunities for participation in development work because of the selective criteria for membership in “*ACT Development*”. We need to take these concerns seriously. Hosting the secretariat of “*ACT Development*”, the WCC gives a clear signal that it accepts its role as the most comprehensive conciliar organization concerned with the coherence of the ecumenical movement, and that the WCC will use its position to give assistance to the birth and growth of a specialized instrument that, hopefully, benefits the ecumenical movement as a whole. The WCC has played such a role in the creation of “*ECLOF*” or “*Oikocredit*”, nurturing a relationship with the WCC and its constituency that remains strong and healthy.
- There are also those among the specialized ministries who seem not to appreciate the added value of global advocacy that is rooted in 60 years of experience in policy formation. When churches struggle together to form Christian opinion and policy on critical issues of the day, on advocacy and on the interconnectedness of national and regional activities, clear directions are defined for cooperation among the WCC, its member churches and ecumenical partners. It is very clear that in response to the Porto Alegre Mandate, the WCC wants to improve its capacity for global advocacy and critical engagement with governments and international organizations in focusing on just a few concerns, such as poverty, wealth and ecology; climate change and water; human rights; and the Middle East. I do believe we can make a difference in focusing together on these concerns. There are good reasons why the new Commission on International Affairs accompanies the work not only in the WCC’s programme area on Public Witness (*P3*), but also the two other programme areas on Justice, Diakonia and Responsibility for Creation (*P4*) and on Interfaith Dialogue and Co-operation (*P6*). The work covered by this commission will encompass the most important area of co-operation between “*ACT Development*” and the WCC. This may be reflected in the membership of the commission in the future.
- There are still others who are afraid that the commitment to working together is not strong enough among the specialized ministries. They fear that only some among us are genuinely interested in improved co-operation and that the WCC will be made the scapegoat for a failure that has its origins in the persisting, strong self-interests of individual actors.
- The strongest reservations against the formation of “*ACT Development*”, however, come from those who were already critical of the separation between diaconal structures and the churches at local and national levels. They fear that “*ACT Development*” will follow the logic of one of the many floating NGOs and not of an ecumenical body that is accountable to churches and ecumenical partners. While this point is well taken and needs to be addressed, I believe that we cannot blame the specialized ministries and “*ACT Development*” for this tendency. This is an old problem haunting the churches in Europe. Although it was exported to other parts of the world with mission, it has been criticized and challenged often by local churches. As much as I sympathize with these concerns, they must be directed first of all to the

churches in the home countries of individual specialized ministries. In fact, I do hope that the formation of “*ACT Development*” and the WCC’s involvement in the process can help to build bridges and to overcome mutual prejudice and fears.

The guiding phrase of my Epiphany message sent to member churches of the WCC last month was this: “It is together that we find our place in the world.” I concluded this message by underlining the thought: “We will only rise to meet our challenges in the years ahead in so far as we act together. While much in our world pulls us apart, the opportunities to find strength in unity today may be greater than ever before... Our calling is to be a people who seek and serve Christ together, to be churches alive in the promise of God’s world-transforming love.”

ACT – Action by the Churches Together: It is significant that this name speaks of church as the primary identity of those coming together under this label. We have been called to action, as servants of the Lord.

Action by the Churches Together. ACT: Let us commit ourselves, together, to making this programmatic name a reality!

Appendix 3

Report by Dr William Temu, Convener of the Steering Group

Overview

It is almost two years to the day since the World Council of Churches held a consultation titled ‘Enhancing Cooperation in Diakonia and Development’ which resulted in the proposal that a new alliance for development be formed. This wasn’t the first conversation about such an alliance however as initial discussions had taken place in the late 1990’s. If we use the analogy, that has often been used when talking about this alliance, of the birth of a new baby- you would have to say, there was a slow onset of labour – and the labour has been long!

But here we are – in 2007 and ACT Development has truly been born - with 55 organisations now officially part of the new alliance, as either participants or observers and more applications coming in all the time. My task in the next 15 minutes is to give you a brief overview of the work undertaken by the “Steering Group” in the past two years to get us where we are today.

The consultation in February 2005 stated that:

Long-term, the ideal model is to bring together ecumenical work with emergencies, advocacy and development under a common brand name, preferably Action by Churches Together’.

It was acknowledged that this would take some time to develop and in the meantime, there was an urgent need to establish a global alliance of ecumenical development agencies to address the following **specific needs** which were being expressed at the that initial consultation:

- The need for a **global ecumenical platform** where we can come together as churches and agencies to discuss development issues, share policies and resources, look strategically together at our combined work and plan joint initiatives
- The need for **coordination** of activities including of our actual development

programmes, of the standards we set and mechanisms we use such as reporting procedures, greater coordination in the transition from relief to development and also of the work we do in advocacy.

- The need for **visibility** for the development work of the ecumenical family which it was hoped could result in increased income and greater leverage to influence international policy makers
- And then there was the need to be able to **access all appropriate sources of funds**, noting that funding opportunities were being missed as some European and global bodies are giving preference to funding coalitions rather than individual organisations.

It was on the basis of these needs that work began on what was initially called ACT Global- and then became the Proposed Ecumenical Alliance for Development (PEAD) and now is called ACT Development. It must be the only proposed global alliance that has had three names in two years! Signifying that ACT Development indeed has been a 'work in progress'.

The Steering Group

Immediately following the February 2005 meeting, a short-term Steering Group was established. It was initially convened by Dr Elisabeth (Beth) Ferris of the WCC who I replaced when she left the Council last October. The Steering Group met for the first time in April 2005.

Ms Jill Hawkey was employed to work as a part-time consultant to support the Steering Group.

The first year was a period of extensive consultations:

- One of the first meetings was with ACT International, The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) and Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Initiative in Africa (EHAIA) to explore the lessons learnt from the establishment of each of these alliances. This meeting stressed the importance of an extensive consultation process, so a first consultation document was developed and distributed widely to a mailing list of approximately 1000 people. This first document focused on the vision, mission, values and code of good practice and membership criteria- leaving the organisational issues to be addressed at a later stage.
- Presentations on PEAD were also given at many national, regional and global ecumenical meetings of churches and agencies engaged in development work during 2005.

Founding Principles of ACT Development

The Steering Group considered feedback from each of these consultations and the responses shaped what became the founding principles of ACT Development that you can find outlined in the Guide. At the same time, the Steering Group started to consider organisational issues for PEAD; its governance, secretariat, relationship to WCC, the budget, and the long-term relationship with EAA and ACT. These issues then formed the basis of an updated consultation document which again was circulated widely in September 2005.

In November 2005, a Communications Consultation brought together a group of 20 communicators from potential member organisations to identify the overall communications issues which needed to be considered as PEAD developed. The outcome was the formation of a Communications Advisory Group which has supported the Steering Group on the question of co-branding and the aim of enhancing the visibility of the ecumenical movement.

In December 2005, a global consultation was held to discuss the overall direction that the new alliance was heading. Having been updated on progress and the responses from the various consultations, participants at the consultation affirmed the concept. This consultation also agreed the criteria for participation, affirmed the offer from WCC that PEAD operate under its legal status for 2-5 years and convene and moderate the Executive Committee for an interim period. The meeting also reiterated the vision of having work with emergencies, advocacy and development coming under one umbrella with a common brand name ACT, and asked the ACT International Emergency Committee to give serious consideration to the alliance using the name ACT.

From PEAD to ACT Development

The ACT Emergency Committee considered this question in April 2006 and gave permission that the name ACT be shared with the new alliance, on the conditions that a policy be developed on the use of the name and a risk management policy is in place before the name is used by ACT Development participants.

The consultation process continued during 2006. The 9th World Council of Churches Assembly in Porto Alegre, Brazil was used as an opportunity to bring organisations together through a series of dinner meetings. A meeting was held for North American delegates to the Assembly as a number of organisations from the region were expressing some reservations. 2006 also saw consultations, a number focusing purely on ACT Development, in Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe as well as presentations at events where agencies from the North meet such as the Roundtable of the World Council of Churches.

Guide to ACT Development

With the name ACT Development now accepted, a full *Guide to ACT Development* and shorter introductory leaflet were produced in four languages - English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. A CD-Rom with presentation on ACT Development was also made available. These documents were again widely distributed, along with the application form for participation in the Alliance.

With a deadline on mid November 2006 for applications, a small Participation Advisory Group was established. This group had the role of screening every application received and making a recommendation to the Steering Group as to whether they should be accepted as participants or observers. With 80% of all applications coming in the two weeks before the deadline, it was an incredibly busy time and this group needs to be thanked for the seriousness and care with which they undertook their task. The Steering Group considered the report of the Participation Advisory Group at the end of November, after which organisations were advised on their status and then invited to Assembly.

ACT Development Secretariat

In the midst of dealing with applications for participation in ACT Development, we also started work on building the permanent ACT Development Secretariat. Three people have been working as interim staff until now; Jill Hawkey as the consultant, Ms Faatu Talapusi as the part-time administrative assistant and Mr Sean Hawkey started as the Communications Officer in August. The position of Director of ACT Development was advertised and Jill Hawkey was appointed with effect from January 1 2007.

Pilot Projects

I want to go back for a few minutes and talk about pilot projects. Most of you may recall that during the consultation process in late 2005, organisations were asked to submit proposals for pilot projects from which lessons could be learnt that could help shape the alliance. A pilot needed to **identify an issue** which could be more effectively addressed

through the cooperation of a number of organisations (we suggested at least 3 PEAD participants) rather than by one organisation and needed to be in line with the overall direction on ACT Development. A proposal was made by ACT International that Liberia be considered as an example of the transition between emergency and long-term development following a long period of war that has devastated so much of the country. Liberia has an active ACT Liberia Forum with a number of potential participants from both the North and the South, and the Steering Group proposed that a conversation be held with the ACT Liberia Forum about ongoing cooperation as they moved into development under the umbrella of ACT Development.

Two consultations were held with the ACT Liberia Forum. The first outlined the concept of ACT Development and while organisations expressed a commitment to continue working together, they felt that they needed time to discuss ACT Development in their organisations. The second consultation heard feedback from the different organisations, affirmed their desire to work together and committed themselves to reviewing the Terms of Reference of the Liberia Forum to incorporate ongoing collaboration in development work. While many expressed an interest in applying to become participants in ACT Development, the membership fee became a major issue for them - as it has for many organisations- and a number of potential participants therefore asked the Liberia Council of Churches to apply on behalf of them all. It is good to have Dr Lartey from the Liberia Council of Churches with us and we look forward to seeing how ACT Development participants in Liberia now shape their ongoing work and ways of relating.

One of the issues that the Liberia pilot taught us- was that it was very difficult to start a pilot project- when we didn't know who was actually going to join - and be accepted, as participants in ACT Development. So, the Steering Group decided not to pursue other pilot projects but rather to wait until we had a firm group of participants- and then to look together at what activities the Alliance wants to pursue.

Launching ACT Development Alliance

And this brings us to today. We now have an alliance of ecumenical organisations about to be launched with huge expertise in the area of development – and the potential is enormous. It is now up to all of us to make it work and to strive to make our vision become a reality of a world where poverty and injustice no longer exist and all people live in just and sustainable relationships with each other and all of God's creation.

The Steering Group has now finished its task - but we will continue to pray for the new Executive Committee as they take over the task that we have held for the past two years.

Thank you.

Appendix 4 Final Statement

ACT Development constituted by 55 churches and organisations

ACT Development, the new global alliance for development, has been officially formed after two years of consultations and planning. The alliance celebrated its first assembly on February 5-7 in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted by the All Africa Conference of Churches. By working collaboratively, the alliance aims to increase the effectiveness of ecumenical work on poverty, injustice and human rights abuse. The alliance brings together 55

ecumenical organisations and churches, collectively running programmes in 157 countries with more than 14,000 staff and with a combined budget calculated to be in the vicinity of US\$1 billion.

Addressing the Assembly on February 7 the Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, explained that "there is a strong sense that we need each other as partners in the ecumenical movement...We have crossed an important threshold with this Assembly. There is now the promise of increased and more carefully targeted co-operation... this will lead to beneficial results for our partners at grassroots and national levels".

The Assembly considered the future direction of the alliance as well as its mechanisms and programmatic activities.

It was agreed by the Assembly that ACT Development should continue discussions with ACT International, the churches global alliance for emergency response, to explore possibilities of a structural relationship between the two alliances. A close working relationship will also be maintained with the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance.

By developing a global brand - using a shared family name among organisations in the alliance - ACT Development aims to enhance the visibility of the development work being carried out by the ecumenical family. It was unanimously agreed by the Assembly that the alliance should continue to work with branding consultants towards the sharing of one family name: ACT (Action by Churches Together).

Emphasising the importance of a global brand, Kobia told the Assembly that "a visible presence of specialised ministries at the international level is absolutely required... involvement in strategic global advocacy has become a must".

The Assembly affirmed that at the national level, a forum will be established by ACT Development organisations working in the country as the basis for collective discussion, learning, analysis and planning.

Executive Committee elected

A 12 seat Executive Committee was elected by the Assembly:

A.G. Augustine Jeyakumar (United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India); Hans Bruning (ICCO, Holland); Nora Coloma (Comunidad Cristiana Mesoamerica, Central America); Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel (Bread for the World, Germany); Eberhard Hitzler (Lutheran World Federation, Geneva); Elizabeth Kaseke (Christian Care, Zimbabwe); Dragan Makojevic (Philanthropy, Serbia); Rick Santos (Church World Service, USA); Humberto Shikiya (CREAS, Argentina); Atle Sommerfeldt (Norwegian Church Aid, Norway); Haftu Woldu Teshalle (Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Ethiopia). The twelfth seat was left vacant to be filled by a woman chosen by the new Executive Committee.

The World Council of Churches has played a key role in the formation of the alliance and will continue to chair the Executive Committee as well as hosting the Alliance Secretariat for an initial period.

Member churches of the World Council of Churches, their development departments and other ecumenical organisations working in development are encouraged to take part in ACT Development. For more information please see:

www.actdevelopment.org

(photographs of the assembly and participants are available from sha@wcc-coe.org)

Organisations forming part of ACT Development at the time of the assembly are:
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC); Amity Foundation, China; Bishopric of Public Ecumenical and Social Services (BLESS), Egypt; Brot für Alle/Bread for All, Switzerland; Brot für die Welt/Bread for the World, Germany; Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR); Centro Regional Ecuménico de Asesoría y Servicio (CREAS), Argentina ; Christian Agency for Rural Development (CARD) India; Christian Aid, UK and Ireland; Christian Care, Zimbabwe; Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB); Christian World Service (CWS) Aotearoa New Zealand; Church of Sweden, International Mission and Diakonia; Church World Service, Inc. (CWS), USA; Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD) Malawi; Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), India; Comisión Cristiana de Desarrollo (CCD), Honduras; Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM), Honduras; Comunidad Cristiana Mesoamericana (CCM), Central America; Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias (CLAI), Latin America; Coordenadoria Ecumênica de Serviço (CESE), Brazil; Coptic Evangelical Organisation for Social Services (CEOSS), Egypt; Council of Services and Development. of the Synod of the Nile Evangelical. Presbyterian Church, Egypt; DanChurchAid, Denmark; Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania (AIDROM); Ecumenical Church Loan Fund, ECLOF International; Ecumenical Committee for Social Development (CEDES), Mozambique; Episcopal Relief and Development, USA; Ethiopian Orthodox Church: Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission; Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V (EED), Germany; Federación Argentina de Iglesias Evangélicas (FAIE), Argentina; FinnChurch Aid (Kirkon Ulkomaanapu), Finland; Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission; Fundação Luterana de Diaconia, Brazil; Fundacion de Ayuda Social de Las Iglesias Cristianas (FASIC), Chile; HEKS/EPER (Swiss Interchurch Aid); ICCO, the Netherlands; Icelandic Church Aid; Iglesia Evangélica del Rio de la Plata , Argentina; International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), USA; Liberian Council of Churches; Lutheran World Federation (LWF); Lutheran World Relief, Inc., USA; Methodist Church of Great Britain; NCCA Christian World Service, Australia, Norwegian Church Aid,; Philanthropy Charitable Fund of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Serbia ; Presbyterian World Service and Development, Canada; Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, Canada; Social Health and Education Development (SHED), Bangladesh; Synodical Board of Social Services, Church of North India; United Church of Canada Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit; United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India; WCC Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation; YAKKUM, Indonesia.

Appendix 5

List Assembly Participants

Dr. Agnes Aboum
Anglican Church of Kenya
Executive Committee Member
World Council of Churches

Mr. Joyanta Adhikari
Executive Director
Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)
Bangladesh

Mr. Christer Åkesson
Moderator
ACT International

Mr. Ryan Andersen
Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship in Public Life
Canadian Lutheran World Relief
Canada

Dr. Shailendra Awale
Chief Coordinator
Church of North India - Synodical Board of Social Services
India

Ms Erika Brundin
Deputy Director of Communications
Church of Sweden
Sweden

Mr. Hans Bruning
International Programme Director
Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
The Netherlands

Ms Susanne Buchweitz
Press & Communications Advisor
Fundação Luterana de Diaconia
Brazil

Ms Omega Bula
Executive Minister
Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit
United Church of Canada
Canada

Mr. Edgardo Aristides Chevez
Comisión de Acción Social Menonita
Honduras

Ms Nora Coloma
Treasurer, Gender & Migration
Comunidad Cristiana Mesoamericana
Honduras

Rt Rev. Bishop Mvume Dandala
General Secretary
All Africa Conference of Churches
Kenya

Rev. Daniel Favaro
Communications Director
Centro Regional Ecuménico de Asesoría y Servicio - CREAS
Argentina

Mr. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria
Programme Coordinator
Lutheran World Federation

Ms Donna Derr
Director, Emergency Response Programme
Church World Service
USA

Rev. Dr. Beat Dietschy
Director
Bread for All
Switzerland

Ms Noemi Espinoza
Director
Comisión Cristiana de Desarrollo
Honduras

Mr. Jonathan Fletcher
National Director
Christian World Service
Aotearoa New Zealand

Mr. Mats Fogelberg
Co-Branding Consultant
Change Pilots
Sweden

Rev. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel
Director
Bread for the World
Germany

Dr. Nelson Garcia Lobo
Director
Comisión de Acción Social Menonita
Honduras

Mr. Alistair Gee
Director
NCCA Christian World Service
Australia

Rev. Jorge Gerhard
Responsible for Area Diaconia
Iglesia Evangélica del Rio de la Plata (IERP)
Argentina

Mr. Claudio Gonzalez
Director
Fundación de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas (FASIC)
Chile

Mr. Santos Pedro Gotine
Coordinator
Ecumenical Committee for Social Development (CEDES)
Mozambique

Mr. Robert Harold Granke
Director
Canadian Lutheran World Relief
Canada

Ms Margareta Grape
Director, International Affairs
Church of Sweden
Sweden

Mr. Ulrich Gundert
Programme Coordinator
Bread for the World
Germany

Ms Linda Hartke
Coordinator
Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance

Ms Harso Pawiro Hartyastuti
Director, Community Development Unit
Christian Foundation for Public Health (YAKKUM)
Indonesia

Mr. Sean Hawkey
Communications Officer
ACT Development, WCC

Ms Jill Hawkey
Director
ACT Development, WCC

Rev. Eberhard Hitzler
Director, World Service
Lutheran World Federation

Ms Susie Ibutu
Director, Governance & Social Services Programme
National Council of Churches of Kenya
Kenya

Rev. Dr. A.G. Augustine Jeyakumar
Director
United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India
India

Ms Sheila Jones
Chief Zonal Officer
Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)
India

Ms Safi Kamal
Programme Officer
Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical & Social Services (BLESS)
Egypt

Mr. Muhungi Kanyoro
Director
Ecumenical Church Loan Fund
International (ECLOF)

Rev. Dr. André Karamaga
Africa Secretary
World Council of Churches

Ms Elizabeth Kaseke
Finance & Administration Manager
Christian Care
Zimbabwe

Ms Alison Kelly
Global Programmes Manager
Christian Aid
UK & Ireland

Rev. Eeva Kemppi-Repo
Director for Communications
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission
Finland

Mr. Gary Kenny
Programme Co-ordinator
Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit
United Church of Canada
Canada

Ms Ann Kioi
Administrative Assistant
All Africa Conference of Churches

Mr. Tom Kivlan
Country Representative
International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)
Ethiopia

Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia
General Secretary
World Council of Churches

Mr. Tim Kuschnerus
Head of Worldwide Programmes Desk
Church Development Service EED
Germany

Dr. Benjamin Lartey
General Secretary
Liberian Council of Churches
Liberia

Mr. Jones Laviwa
Executive Director
Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)
Malawi

Dr. Nigussu Legesse
Commissioner
Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOC-
DICAC)
Ethiopia

Ms Callie Long
Communications Officer
ACT International

Mr. Melton Luhanga
Planning and Advocacy Manager
Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)
Malawi

Rev. Dragan Makojevic
Director
Philanthropy Charitable Fund of the Serbian Orthodox Church
Serbia

Dr. Christoph Mann
Project Leader
Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Initiative in Africa (EHAIA)
World Council of Churches

Rev. Forbes Matonga
National Director
Christian Care
Zimbabwe

Mr. Timothy McCully
Vice President, International Programmes
Lutheran World Relief, Inc.
USA

Rev. Miklos Menessy
Coordinator
The Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania (AIDROM)
Romania

Ms Trish Murray
Projects Coordinator
Christian World Service
Aotearoa New Zealand

Mr. Kishore Kumar Nag
Director, Division of Social Action
United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India
India

Mr. John Nduna
Director
ACT International

Dr. Venancio Afonso Nhandime
Director
Ecumenical Committee for Social Development CEDES
Mozambique

Mr. David Nieto
Programmes Coordinator
Comisión Cristiana de Desarrollo
Honduras

Rev. Fred Nyabera
Director
FECCLAHA
Kenya

Ms Esther Oettli
Head Foreign Department
Swiss Interchurch Aid (HEKS/EPER)
Switzerland

Mr. Samson Pandit
Chief Trainer
Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)
Bangladesh

Mr. Antti Pentikäinen
Director
FinnChurchAid
Finland

Mr. George Petty
Programme Executive
Ecumenical Church Loan Fund International (ECLOF)

Rev. Dr. Seppo Rissanen
Director
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission
Finland

Ms Eliana Rolemberg
Director
Coordenadoria Ecumenica de Servico (CESE)
Brazil

Ms Kirsi Saloranta
Head of Communications
FinnChurchAid
Finland

Mr. Rick Santos
Coordinator, Program Strategic Planning and Evaluation
Church World Service
USA

Rev. Silvio Schneider
Executive Secretary
Fundação Luterana de Diaconia
Brazil

Rev. Juan Abelardo Schvindt
General Secretary
Iglesia Evangélica del Rio de la Plata (IERP)
Argentina

Mr. Maged Shafik Bessada
Director
Council of Services & Development, Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Egypt

Mr. Humberto Martin Shikiya
Executive Director
Centro Regional Ecuménico de Asesoría y Servicio (CREAS)
Argentina

Mr. Arthur Shoo
Director, Programmes
All Africa Conference of Churches
Kenya

Rev. Atle Sommerfeldt
General Secretary
Norwegian Church Aid
Norway

Rev. Henrik Stubkjaer
Director
DanChurchAid
Denmark

Mr. Dinesh Suna
Policy Officer
Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)
India

Ms Faautu Talapusi
Administrative Assistant
ACT Development, WCC

Mr. Ivan Tasic
Projects Manager
Philanthropy Charitable Fund of the Serbian Orthodox Church
Serbia

Dr. William Temu
Convenor, ACT Development
Assistant General Secretary
World Council of Churches

Mr. Christian Peter Teodorescu
Director
The Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania (AIDROM)
Romania

Ms Elsa Tesfay
Development Team Leader
The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
Canada

Mr. Paul Valentin
International Director
Christian Aid
UK & Ireland

Ms Leila Valvik Raustøl
Director, Communication & Fundraising
Norwegian Church Aid
Norway

Mr. Rob van Drimmelen
General Secretary
APRODEV
Belgium

Mr. Jack van Ham
General Director
Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
The Netherlands

Dr. Konrad von Bonin
Director
Church Development Service EED
Germany

Dr. Sigit Wijayanta
Director
Christian Foundation for Public Health (YAKKUM)
Indonesia

Mr. Haftu Woldu Teshalle
Head of Development Department
Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOC-
DICAC)
Ethiopia