

Unifying The ACT Alliances and: Recent Executive Committee Decisions

The ACT Development Executive Committee, elected during the ACT Development Assembly in Nairobi in February, met for the first time on May 10-12. With the exception of Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel, who was unable to attend, all members of the committee were present.

Regional reports

Committee members gave a brief report from their regions, indicating growing interest in ACT Development and that applications for participation are expected from various eligible organisations. The interest in national and regional forums, from organisations within the alliance and from outside, was also highlighted.

The following decisions were made at the meeting:

1. Agenda and papers

The agenda and papers for the meeting will be e-mailed to Executive Committee members two weeks prior to each meeting and the minutes will be circulated within two weeks of the meeting. Papers which are confidential to the Executive Committee will be sent in a separate document and marked confidential. Appreciation for the translation of key documents into Spanish was also noted.



Jill Hawkey, Director of ACT Development

2. Progress Report

The Director presented a progress report which was accepted.

3. ACT International Report.



The director of ACT International, John Nduna, pictured, reported on the ACT International Emergency Committee meeting held in April. The ACT International Executive Committee was directed 'to continue the

Unifying the ACT alliances

The Joint Working Group, JWG, to work on the unification of ACT Development and ACT International, has 12 members:

For ACT International

- Christer Åkesson
- Donna Derr
- Nick Guttman
- Forbes Matonga
- Sushant Agrawal
- John Nduna

For ACT Development

- Humberto Shikiya
- Eberhard Hitzler
- Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel
- Dragan Makojevic
- William Temu
- Jill Hawkey

The JWG will advise on a timeline for unification and while the alliances remain separate there is a Memorandum of Understanding to help the organisations work closely together.



Executive Committee members pictured above from top:

Humberto Shikiya, CREAS, Argentina

Rev. Eberhard Hitzler, World Service, Lutheran World Federation

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

process of bringing together ACT International and ACT Development'... with the ultimate goal of 'an ecumenical alliance of churches and agencies for emergency and development'.

The ACT International Executive Committee named 4 people to form a Joint Working Group together with ACT Development:

- Christer Åkesson (Church of Sweden)
- Donna Derr (Church World Service, USA)
- Nick Guttman (Christian Aid, UK and Ireland)
- Forbes Matonga (Christian Care, Zimbabwe)

The ACT Development Executive Committee appointed the following people to the Joint Working Group:

- Humberto Shikiya (CREAS, Argentina)
- Eberhard Hitzler (Lutheran World Federation)
- Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel (Bread for the World, Germany)
- Dragan Makojevic (Philanthropy, Serbia)

The Joint Working Group will advise on the time-line for unification, and, for the coming period prior to unification, a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed by consultant Bob White, pictured above right, that will help the alliances work closely together. The Memorandum of Understanding comes out of the risk management study undertaken by ACT International.



The ACT Development Executive Committee also agreed:

- that the Director be asked to work with the Director of ACT International to undertake preparatory work for the Working Group including developing possible scenarios and identifying issues that need to be addressed.

4. 2007 Annual Plan

The director presented the Annual Activity Plan 2007. Some changes were made and the Plan was subsequently adopted and will be circulated to all participants and observers (in both English and Spanish).

5. Our Shared Understanding of Development

Rev. Michael French, pictured below, who is working with ACT



Development as part of his sabbatical, presented a draft document 'Our Shared Understanding of Development'. After further discussion, it was agreed to send the first section of the document to participants and observers as background information and to ask them to briefly respond to a number of questions such as 'what are the values that drive us, what are the principles or approaches that guide how we work?'

6. Working at the National and Regional level

The paper 'Guidelines for ACT Development National and Regional Forums' was considered.

A number of changes were made to the document, the most significant being on membership.

It was agreed:

- a. Members of ACT Development forums will be ACT Development participants and observers who have an interest in work in that country.
- b. Observers in national forums: this category is for current members of ACT International who are not members of ACT Development and for organisations who meet the criteria for participation in ACT Development but who have not yet applied.
- c. Organisations who do not qualify for participation or observer status and who are not members of ACT International may be invited by the members of the

forum to attend meetings if all members of the forum agree. NB: These organizations are not considered members or observers of the forum.

It was also agreed:

- All ACT Development participants will be asked to consider whether a national forum should be established within their country or in countries where they work
- ACT Development participants should give priority to encouraging national forums in countries of the South or East where ACT Development has local participants (Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Romania, Serbia, Zimbabwe).
- The Secretariat will particularly encourage countries which have a high number of ACT Development participants with an interest in the country.
- ACT Development participants may also establish forums in a country or region where there are no local participants and no potential participants (ie: no WCC member churches). See the discussion on the Ecumenical Consortium on Central Asia-point 17.
- Revised guidelines will be sent to all participants as the basis for the creation of forums.

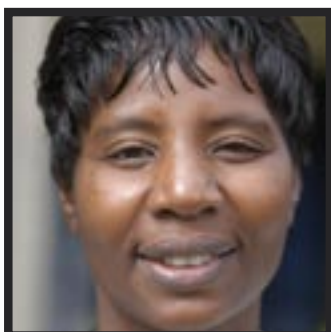


Executive Committee members pictured above from top:

Haftu Woldu Teshalle, Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission

Nora Coloma, Comunidad Cristiana Mesoamerica, Central America

Atle Sommerfeldt, Norwegian Church Aid, Norway



Executive Committee members pictured above from top:

Elizabeth Kaseke, Christian Care, Zimbabwe

Rick Santos, Church World Service, USA

• Further work will be undertaken with ACT International regarding a time-frame and process for developing a common policy with guidelines for the ACT Alliance.

7. Impact Assessment

The Core Group for the ACT Development Impact Assessment project was confirmed as:

- Aidan Timlim, Christian Aid, UK and Ireland
- Gerhild Gürtler, Bread for the World, Germany
- Jayant Kumar, CASA, India
- Melton Luhanga, CARD, Malawi
- Maryssa Mapanao-Camaddo, LWF
- Karen Nazaryan, WCC Roundtable of Armenia
- Alonso Roberts, CESE, Brazil
- Katharine Krall, Episcopal Relief and Development, USA

The first core group meeting is scheduled to take place on July 6-7 in India. Bread for the World and CASA will co-facilitate this project.

It was agreed that:

- the Executive Committee will receive regular updates on the Impact Assessment project
- an important part of the project will be finding out what ACT Development participants are already doing on Impact Assessment
- That, as a point of principle, the Terms of Reference of all global

programmes must be decided by the Executive Committee

8. Ecumenical Staff Working Group on Global Advocacy

Linda Hartke reported on the Ecumenical Staff Working Group on Global Advocacy and the proposed Scoping Exercise which ACT Development, ACT International, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and the World Council of Churches will undertake. The overall direction of the project was affirmed.

9. Ecumenical World Poverty Report

Following discussions with the World Council of Churches, ICCO is identifying a person to look further into this project and will report to the next Executive Committee.

10. Communications Report

Sean Hawkey presented the communications report. Callie Long, Communications Officer for ACT International was also present.

It was agreed to approve the overall direction of the Communications work being undertaken. This was presented in three major parts: internet for public access; extranet for developing communities within the alliances; and a database for tracking our constituency and

building relationships with them. The website should be built to be compatible with the new ACT International website (nearing completion) to facilitate the eventual merging of the two sites. The extranet should preferably use a user-friendly technology for file sharing, collaborative work and networking. The database should preferably serve both ACT alliances and the EAA. A shared technology is currently being studied.

It was further agreed:

- that we continue to work as closely as possible with ACT International in this work.
- to update participants on communication work via an electronic newsletter

Regarding co-branding, it was agreed:

- Sean and Callie will meet with the consultants regarding the next stage in the process and the cost involved and will then send a recommendation to the Executive Committee regarding whether they work with these consultants or put the process out to tender.

11. Communications Advisory Group

It was agreed that this Committee be used flexibly, coming together as necessary:

- that specialist small task groups be established to bring in required expertise.

- that members of the CAG must be from participant or observer organisations.

12. Report of the Participation Advisory Group

A number of applications or letters were considered which need to be confidential to the Executive Committee. **Solidarite Protestante, Belgium**, was accepted as a participant. The **National Council of Churches in India** was accepted as an Observer.

13. Participation Advisory Group

The following people have been appointed to the PAG:

- Rick Fee (convenor)
- Christer Akesson
- Nora Coloma
- Augustine Jeyakumar
- Haftu W Teshalle

14. Membership of ExCom - 12th person

It was agreed to call for nominations of women with public relations experience, particularly from regions not well represented on the Committee (Asia and the CAANZUS network in particular) to serve on the Executive Committee. A person specification will be developed and circulated to the network.



Executive Committee members pictured above from top:

A.G. Augustine Jeyakumar, United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India

Hans Bruning, ICCO, the Netherlands

Dragan Makojevic, Philanthropy, Serbia



Above, from top :

William Temu, World Council of Churches, Geneva (Moderator of ACT Development)

Linda Hartke, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, Geneva

Callie Long, ACT International, Geneva

Diary dates

Impact Assessment core group meeting is scheduled to take place on July 6-7 in India.

Next Executive Committee meeting 17-18 September

15. Memorandum of Understanding with ACT International

William Temu (moderator) will sign the Memorandum of Understanding with ACT International on behalf of ACT Development. An accompanying letter from the Executive Committee will highlight the importance of transparency and the sharing of information during this next stage.

16. Financial Issues

The progress report for 2007 and the budget for 2008 were received. The Executive Committee requested the Director to now seek additional funds from organizations who make supplementary contributions to ACT Development to cover the activities as outlined in the annual plan. A revised budget for 2007 will be presented to the Executive Committee in September 2007 (including any additional funds that have been secured).

Regarding the 2008 budget, it was agreed that serious consideration needs to be given to increasing the supplementary contribution to 0.7% (0.6% would probably not provide enough income to cover programmatic work). The Director was asked to write to all organizations outlining the difficulties and proposing that the supplementary contribution be increased to 0.7%. A revised budget (based on the responses from participants) will be presented to the September Executive Committee meeting.

17. Request from the Ecumenical Consortium on Central Asia

The Committee had received a letter and paper from the ECCA stating their interest in becoming an ACT Development pilot project. In light of the earlier discussion on national and regional forums, it was agreed that the ACT Development participants who are part of ECCA be asked to consider forming a regional forum for Central Asia rather than a 'project', therefore following the policy and guidelines as set out by ACT Development for national and regional forums.

Don't forget...

All ACT Development participants are asked to consider establishing a forum within their country or in countries where they work. Priority should be given to encouraging national forums in countries of the South or East where ACT Development has local participants:

- Argentina
- Armenia
- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Chile
- China
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Honduras
- India
- Indonesia
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Romania
- Serbia
- Zimbabwe

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