

Global Consultation

Genetics and New Biotechnologies

Context and Direction – Why we need this consultation now

In May 2006 the National Council of Churches USA (NCC) and the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) organized a successful initial consultation on genetics and biotechnologies with representatives from the Canadian Council of Churches, Caribbean Council of Churches, Conference of European Churches, Latin American Council of Churches, Middle East Council of Churches, National Council of Churches USA, Pacific Conference of Churches and the WCC (Report available upon request). Subsequently the Central Committee of the WCC approved, as part of its Justice, Diakonia and Responsibility for Creation programme, a project entitled Faith, Science, and Technology, which includes support for a global consultation on genetics and new technologies. Building on the existing competence and previous involvement in inter-religious conferences on related topics, this consultation is intended to form a communication platform of concerned people, churches and ecumenical partners to continue the discussions as the first steps toward a network. Other events will follow on the heels of this event, leading up to an event in 2009 to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1979 MIT Conference on Faith, Science and the Future.

People – Invited Participants

50+ church representatives, scientists, youth, indigenous people, disabled people and theologians have been invited to the consultation. For a full description of the participants, please see the invited participants list.

All the participants are part of institutions and organizations that have the capacity to continue to work in this area. Every region of the world will be represented at this conference.

The planning committee currently includes:

- ◆ Co-chair Stephen Allen (CCC; Presbyterian Church in Canada)
- ◆ Co-chair Olivia Masih White (NCC; United Church of Christ, USA)

Staff support for the planning committee includes Eileen Lindner (NCCCUSA), Marcel Welty (NCCCUSA), Martin Robra (WCC), Maria Van Heemstra (WCC), Stefanie Schardien (WCC), Peter Noteboom (CCC) and Eddy Makue (South Africa Council of Churches (SACC)).

Location

The Kopanong Hotel and Conference Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa has been reserved. For more details and directions, please visit www.kopanong.co.za. Phone + 27 11 749-0000

Time

The consultation will begin on Sunday evening with a reception and opening worship. A full program of activities is scheduled for Monday, December 3 to Wednesday, December 6, 2007. Pre-events may be organized on the Saturday or Sunday prior to the beginning of the consultation. International participants are encouraged to arrive on Saturday, December 1.