

Report of the Programme Sub-Committee

The Programme Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee received the report of the work which has taken place, the work plans, and also heard the comments of the Executive Committee.

The Programme Sub-Committee was asked to react to documents 3, 8, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 11 and the Programme Plans 2008-2013 (Summary).

The Programme Sub-Committee listed suggestions to the Staffing and Nominations Committee related to the draft agenda of the Central Committee meeting in February 2008 (Doc. 11). (Appendix I)

1. Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee

The Programme Sub-Committee and Finance Sub-Committee had a joint session to get a common understanding regarding future planning. The points which were raised related to the years 2008 and 2009. The main concern was related to the planning of the year 2009 which has two scenarios, i.e. either the expectation that the proposed increased income be met; or 2008 income levels be maintained. This needs to be taken into consideration in planning. The input given by the Sub-Programme Committee is included in the present report.

2. Programme Plans 2008-2013 Summary

The Programme Sub-Committee affirms the vision and purpose section of the plans, noting the comments made at the Executive Committee meeting.

The Programme Sub-Committee recognized that more prioritizing is needed:

1. What is essential and at the core of the WCC
2. What is highly desirable, but is dependant on resources available
3. What activities/projects could be postponed , frozen or even suspended.

These decisions could be based on the evaluation planned for the end of 2007.

The need to review the titles of programmes and projects was expressed (International Affairs and Faith and Order were mentioned as examples). It was suggested that, beyond the health dimension, HIV and AIDS should be viewed also from the theological perspective. In P206 the spirit of dialogue should be kept.

The Programme Sub-Committee recommends that the following points be considered when plans are reviewed:

- smaller and shorter meetings, joint meetings
- using new technology (video conferences etc.)
- business meetings be shorter and combined with visits to member churches
- challenge churches to take more responsibility regarding travelling costs
- when a large event is taking place, the programmatic work of the Council be reduced to a minimum and some existing human and financial resources of the Council be made available for the event.

The Programme Sub-Committee recommends that a special effort be made to raise funds for the Living Letters team visits. For this purpose staff to clearly formulate the terms of reference of the visits, the composition of delegations, countries to be visited etc and to communicate this to the churches and possible funding partners.

The Programme Sub-Committee recommends to the Executive Committee

- to explore possibilities of organizing the Meeting of **the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME)** directly following the Edinburgh 2010 conference. The CWME meeting could be held one or two days right after the 2010 conference so as to collect the results of the 2010 process in preparation for the WCC Assembly.

The programme Sub-Committee affirmed that there be a **Faith and Order Plenary Commission** in 2009; however, the Programme Sub-Committee recommends that staff explore different possibilities for a gathering and ways of reducing costs while still ensuring participation.

3. Participation of Churches in Development and Advocacy (Doc. 8.1)

The Programme Sub-Committee received Document 8.1, discussed it, supported the main thrust and affirmed that the WCC have a leading role in this process and bring the voices and concerns of the churches into the process.

4. Partnerships with Churches and Other Organisations (Doc. 8.2)

The Programme Sub-Committee received information on the current situation of partnerships and staff secondment. It affirmed the main thrusts of this process, but asked that there be an assessment, so as to strengthen and widen partnerships.

5. An Expanded Assembly – A Second Report for Ongoing Discussion

The Programme Sub-Committee received the second report and affirmed the continuity of the process. While protecting the integrity of the WCC Assembly as required by the constitution, further exploration of the "expanded space" was asked to be done in dialogue with the CWCs, REOs and other ecumenical partners, which already have a relationship with the WCC. The Sub-Committee also recommended to solicit further feedback from member churches. A more concrete proposal to be presented at the Officers' meeting in December 2007 and at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

APPENDIX I

Report from the Programme Sub-Committee to the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee

Proposals relating to the Central Committee Draft Agenda. (Document # 11)

It is proposed that:

1. testimonies from member churches be scheduled so that members can attest to the meaning of WCC 60th anniversary for their own contexts. This can be conducted as a 'walk down memory lane' to illustrate WCC's involvement, work and life throughout the years.
2. the moderator's report be changed to the moderator's address .
3. Bible studies be included in the Central Committee's schedule. These proposed Bible studies should be conducted by different language groups, e.g. French, English etc. In case of time constraint, the Bible studies can be also alternated with prayers.
4. the evaluation session be included in the schedule.
5. meetings for the African diaspora be programmed into the organized schedule.
6. opening worship be renamed opening prayer.