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FOR INFORMATION

Actions taken following the recommendations of the central committee 2006

Introduction: This is a brief account of the follow-up actions taken on the recommendations of the joint programme and policy reference committees of the central committee in September 2006 (Ref. Doc. GEN/PRO 02). The responses shared here are mainly based on the monitoring of programmatic work.

- 1. The central committee agrees that mechanisms to enhance the integrated approach be clearly defined and built into the structure of all programmes and projects.*

ACTION TAKEN: This has been built into the programme structure through staff time allocation; and through the monitoring and evaluation of programmatic work leading to changes in plans for the following year to ensure greater coherence and integration.

- 2. The central committee agrees that the intended primary audience of every activity to be implemented be clearly identified.*

ACTION TAKEN: The communication strategy has identified this and project staff are being assisted in identifying their audience.

- 3. The central committee agrees that a specific report be prepared for the central committee on how this approach (through the work of the special commission) is deepening and broadening ecumenical relationships for the 21st century.*

ACTION TAKEN: The general secretary has highlighted this issue in his report in order to encourage further discussions – this will have its effect on further reflections in the programmes.

- 4. The committee, recalling that the Assembly in Porto Alegre received the statement Called to be the One Church and called for a seven year process of discussion among the churches in response to this statement, looks forward to receiving regular reports from Faith and Order on the progress of the discussion (cf para 33c).*

ACTION TAKEN: See report of the F&O commission.

- 5. The central committee agrees that more reflection about the meaning and significance of a “common ecumenical assembly” be undertaken to assess this possibility, preferably for 2013.*

ACTION TAKEN: See separate doc (GEN 03).

- 6. *The central committee agrees that the officers review the proposed membership of the continuation committee on ecumenism in the 21st century in light of the lack of youth representation (which contradicts the description of this project), the lack of sufficient Orthodox representation, the lack of any Pentecostal or free church representation, and other imbalances.***

ACTION TAKEN: This has been done and the first meeting of the continuation committee was held in November 2007 at the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, Switzerland.

- 7. *“Evangelism” be added to the title of the programme, so as to read: “Unity, Mission, Evangelism and Spirituality” and clarify the definition and usage of the terms.***

ACTION TAKEN: This has been done.

- 8. *Regarding the relationship of the unity, mission and spirituality (P2) and the inter-religious dialogue and cooperation (P6) programmes, special care be taken to include the theological dimension in the work on inter-religious dialogue, and the continuation of joint work, at both commission and staff levels, on “Religious Plurality and Christian Self-Understanding” undertaken by the Inter-Religious Dialogue, commission on World Mission and Evangelism, and Faith and Order.***

ACTION TAKEN: This is being adhered to in the joint work.

- 9. *Regarding the call to be one church (P201) and the spirituality and worship in ecumenical context (P202) projects, work should be done in the areas of “Theological Anthropology and moral discernment in the churches” and “Tradition and traditions: sharing sources of authority”, as formulated in the report from the Faith and Order standing commission meeting in Faverges, June 2006.***

ACTION TAKEN: See the report of the F&O commission.

- 10. *Regarding just and inclusive communities (P204): recognizing that these areas of concern (people living with disabilities, indigenous people, dalits, and persons facing racial discrimination) raise questions of justice and require advocacy, this area be undertaken within Justice and Diakonia (P4), and (the central committee) recognizes that these issues have theological dimensions, and therefore must impact reflection done with Unity, Mission and Spirituality (P2).***

ACTION TAKEN: In discussion with the executive committee this project has been retained in the programme on Unity, Mission, Evangelism and Spirituality to keep to the spirit of seeing the ecclesial dimensions of the contributions of these communities. Intentional links with all other programmes are being fostered.

- 11. *Regarding Ecumenical AIDS Initiative in Africa (P407): there be work with networks of Pentecostal churches, in order to involve them and to enable them to receive ecumenical funding, and (the central committee) notes that this would be effective because these networks have high impact in local situations.***

ACTION TAKEN: EHAIA works with a wide spectrum of churches and in some sub-regions these include Pentecostal churches.

12. Churches and the Middle East: solidarity and witness for peace (P304). The central committee agrees that the Israel-Palestine Ecumenical Forum proposed by the report of the general secretary, under the wider scene of the Middle East, should come under project P304.

ACTION TAKEN: The Israel-Palestine Ecumenical Forum has been set up and is an integral part of P304.

13. Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)(P305): The central committee agrees that the WCC continue to be the convener of the EAPPI, to guarantee the global dimension of the programme and to continue to facilitate the participation of churches all over the world.

ACTION TAKEN: EAPPI continues to be coordinated by the WCC within the framework of the Middle East Focus, recognizing that extending the number of churches involved in this work is a priority for the region and for the ecumenical movement.

14. The central committee agrees that the title of the activity "Church encounters on economic globalization" (P306-01) be changed to "Church encounters on wealth and poverty: impacts of economic globalization".

ACTION TAKEN: Changed as recommended.

15. The central committee agrees that establishing a visible connection between the AGAPE process and the DOV international peace convocation and declaration that will conclude the decade.

ACTION TAKEN: This is being followed up – a first consultation of the churches held in Tanzania in November 2007 has begun this process. This will be continued.

16. The name of this programme be re-named "Justice, diakonia and responsibility for Creation", which would give increased visibility to creation and to responsibility for its care.

ACTION TAKEN: Changed as recommended.

17. There be a closer, integrated work between Poverty, wealth and ecology (P306) and Climate change and water: caring for creation (P405), that the budgets be re-worked to reflect this integrated approach and that consideration be given to fully merging these projects.

ACTION TAKEN: In the recent prioritization process the projects on Climate Change (P405) and the project on Faith, Science and Technology (P406) have been merged. This new merged project will work closely with the project on Poverty, wealth and ecology (P306).

18. Project Mutual accountability (P402) be merged into Ecumenical solidarity (P401) under the title "Ecumenical solidarity, responsibility and accountability". "Mutual accountability" is much broader than the activities suggested. Accountability should be an underlying foundation for most of the Council's programmes. Since accountability is an essential component of ecumenical solidarity, these two projects should be merged.

The merged project, Ecumenical solidarity and responsibility (P401), take the following into consideration:

- *Communications must be an integral part of the methodology in this work;*
- *WCC should facilitate information sharing on capacity-building initiatives carried out by others to local churches and other partners who may need this support;*
- *WCC should press participants in both ACT International and ACT Development to build capacities of churches working in diakonia and to do so in a collaborative and coherent way as ACT International and ACT Development move into closer integration.*

ACTION TAKEN: The two projects have been merged, as recommended, and the other issues in the recommendation, regarding the content, are being followed up.

19. Considering the link between some aspects of Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network's (EDAN) mandate and the project Faith, science, technology and ethics (P405), the specific objectives be re-formulated to include: "to bring to the table the science and technology issues raised by and lessons learned by the EDAN network" and EDAN be added to the section on relationships plan.

ACTION TAKEN: This has been followed up with two representatives from the EDAN network participating in a significant way in the work on Faith, Science and Technology (P405).

20. Health and Healing (P406), include an additional activity to be developed under the title "Healing memories, reconciling communities", which should work closely with the projects and activities: Just and inclusive communities (P204), Global advocacy for justice and accountability (P302), Mental health (P406-03), and Decade to overcome violence (P301).

ACTION TAKEN: A new activity has been initiated as recommended.

21. Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Initiative in Africa (EHAIA) (P407) be retained as a separate programme. The committee affirms WCC's role in this programme and expects further clarification from the 2007 evaluation about WCC's future role and about lessons which may be applicable to other regions.

ACTION TAKEN: The WCC continues to play a coordinating role.

22. That there be integration of Indigenous People's concerns into the work of P403.

ACTION TAKEN: Is being followed up as recommended.

23. The central committee accepts the integration of Bossey and the EEF team, and recommends that the new commission be instructed to agree a new project list when it first meets. Given the urgency of the situation, the commission should meet as soon as possible and report to the executive committee. The priority of networking and resourcing formal and informal educational formation in institutions and churches in the nations and regions.

ACTION TAKEN: Followed up as recommended. See report of the commission on Education and Ecumenical Formation.

24. Mutual team visits/living letters should be included clearly in the programme of the DOV, and that these include interfaith encounters between youth, in order to make sure that the DOV benefits from the experience of youth in peace making.

ACTION TAKEN: Living Letters team visits have begun and will continue till the IEPC in 2011.

25. The International Convocation on Just Peace include the perspectives of other faith communities, including in the preparation planning, regional consultations.

ACTION TAKEN: Two events are planned, one in 2008 to focus on people of faith communities reflecting on symbols for peace in various traditions, and the second in 2009 to bring together young people from various faith traditions reflecting on overcoming violence.

26. The WCC support and advocate for a declaration by the United Nations for a “Decade of Inter-Religious Dialogue and cooperation for peace: 2009 - 2019”.

ACTION TAKEN: The WCC is fully involved in this process. The general secretary included it on the agenda with the UN Secretary General, and P6 staff played a significant role in the meeting convened to finalize the proposal.

27. Interfaith programmes include an intentional dialogue with Indigenous peoples and Indigenous religions;

ACTION TAKEN: Some work has already been done with African traditional religions – a book is under preparation. More work is to follow.

28. There be collaboration between Inter-religious dialogue and cooperation programme and the Justice and diakonia programmes on faith, science, technology and ethics, concerning the issue of secularization and fundamentalism.

ACTION TAKEN: This has not been done to date. However, the new programme plans anticipate these connections.

29. Communications: a) There must be the necessary capacity to achieve what is intended in terms of leadership, staffing, methods, people to whom communications are directed, technology and funding.

b) A comprehensive communications strategy needs to be developed, including inclusion of communication staff in project planning and accountability.

c) The communications strategy needs to include aims to increase the WCC public profile and visibility, wider attention to the WCC programmes and the moral influence of the WCC on the international agenda.

d) A mechanism to quantitatively measure the effectiveness of communications needs to be developed with feedback being integrated in the communication strategy to continually improve communication. Evaluation of communications should be regularly reviewed by the executive and by the central committee.

ACTION TAKEN: See separate CC doc. on a Communication Strategy (GEN 09).

30. The central committee agrees that a clear process of evaluation of all programmes, with criteria, be adopted by the central committee. This is important because (1) the early agreement of evaluation criteria assists the planning of programmes and activities, and (2) clear criteria will enable the central committee to monitor more effectively whether the overall goals are being achieved. A clear qualitative and quantitative proposal for evaluation is to be brought to the executive committee for approval at its February 2007 meeting.

ACTION TAKEN: A proposal for evaluation of the programmatic work, including the criteria to be used, and a time frame leading up to the next Assembly was presented to the executive committee in February 2007, as recommended. In following up the approved proposal the first internal evaluation of all projects/programmes has been done in November-December 2007. The findings of the evaluation will assist in the planning for the next cycle.