



Original

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English

FOR INFORMATION

Public Issues Committee
Proposed Annotated Agenda

Mandate:

1. Public statements are one way in which the World Council of Churches (WCC) responds to critical issues on the international agenda. The basic provisions for making such statements are set out in Rule XIII of the Constitution and Rules of the WCC:

Rule XIII (1):

In the performance of its functions, the World Council of Churches through its assembly or through its central committee may issue statements on any situation or concern with which the Council or its constituent churches may be confronted.

Rule XIII (2):

While such statements may have great significance and influence as the expression of the judgement or concern of so widely representative a Christian body, yet their authority will consist only in the weight which they carry by their own truth and wisdom, and the publishing of such statements shall not be held to imply that the World Council of Churches as such has, or can have, any constitutional authority over the constituent churches or right to speak for them.

2. The criteria identified by Central Committee for making public statements:
 - areas on which the WCC has had direct involvement and long-standing commitment;
 - emerging issues of international concern to which the attention of the churches should be called for action;
 - critical and developing political situations which demand the WCC to make known its judgement and lend its spiritual and moral voice;
 - expectations from the member churches that WCC should speak;
 - when there is need to set policy.
3. In light of the interactive and integrated approach, to discuss programme proposal 2007-2009 and to forward comments to Programme Guidelines Committee.

Wednesday, 13 February

15.30 First plenary session on public issues
Brief report

Thursday, 14 February

12.30 Deadline for proposal for additional public issues
Report on additional public issues

- 15.30 Plenary report on additional public issues
(if any received by the committee at the expiry of the 24hr deadline)

Friday, 15 February

- 14.00 Welcome – *Dr. Agnes Abuom*
Introductions
Review of Procedures on Public Issues – *Elenora Giddings-Ivory*
Presentation of Executive Committee decision on Public Issues
Minute on global warming and climate change
Democratic governance and electoral processes
For Information – Changing political, economic and social contexts
Consideration of Proposals for Public Issues received from Central Committee
Decisions on disposition of public issues proposal
- 15.00 Coffee/tea
- 15.30 Discussion of moderator's and general secretary's reports

Discussion on programme proposals 2008-2011

(Report of the discussions to be shared with Programme Committee)
- 16.30 Public Issues Committee discussions on statements

Saturday, 16 February

- 8:30 Prayer
- 9:00 Public Issues Committee discussions on statements (continued)
- 10.30 Coffee/tea
- 11:00 Discussion on public issues (continued)
- 12:30 Lunch
- 14:00 Finalisation of public issues action.
- 15:00 Coffee/tea
- 15:30 Finalisation of public issues action (continued)
- 16.30 Additional session if needed

Monday, 18 February

- 10.00 Second Plenary on Public Issues

Tuesday, 19 February

15:30 Reading of public issues report
Adoption of Recommendations on Public Issues ???

Wednesday, 20 February

09.00 Reading of public issues report
Amendments to Recommendations on Public Issues for final action by plenary (as required)

12:30 Press Conference