

**World Council of Churches  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Etchmiadzin, Armenia  
25-28 September 2007**

**Document No 1.4 PIC**

**For Information**

**ACTIONS ON PUBLIC ISSUES**

*(Covers the period between March and August 2007)*

**AFRICA**

27 Feb.-2 March Statement on the Situation in the Horn of Africa adopted by the Executive Committee expressing concerns at the deteriorating human rights situation in Ethiopia and Eritrea; supporting the TFG in its efforts to bring services to the people of Somalia and to build the institutions that are needed to promote stability, democracy, rule of law and development; welcoming efforts by the Sudanese government towards reconciliation in the east of the country following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as well as the signing of a truce agreement between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Government of Uganda and urges both parties to resume the stalled peace

**ASIA/PACIFIC**

20 April 2007 The WCC General Secretary expressed concern regarding the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka. He appealed to the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to return to the obligations of the Cease Fire Agreement and to seek durable solutions to end the fighting that is affecting the lives of so many people, and encouraged the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to reach a settlement of the ethnic conflicts and put an end to the violence through dialogue and negotiations.

24 July 2007 Letter to the NCC Korea regarding the 23 Korean hostages held in Afghanistan, praying for their immediate release and reunification with their families.

**EUROPE**

9 March 2007 Letter to the member churches of the WCC in the United Kingdom in view of the Trident nuclear weapons decision that was nearing a key vote in the parliament of the UK.

16 March 2007 Letter to Rt. Hon. Tony Blair in relation to the bicentennial anniversary of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, reminding that people of African descent in diaspora and in Africa are still awaiting an unambiguous apology and clear sign from European nations that acknowledges their participation in colonial history, and encouraging a process of truth telling, repentance and reconciliation in order to promote an honest and open dialogue in relation to the scars left on the people as a part of the colonial legacy.

7 May 2007 Tribute to Prof. Dr Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker, who gave a decisive impetus to the Conciliar Process for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation which brought churches

and people together across the divisions of the cold war during the final two decades of the last century. As a nuclear physicist, he took a public stance against nuclear weapons.

## MIDDLE EAST

- 15 March 2007 Statement of the WCC General Secretary on the fourth anniversary of the war in Iraq, calling on WCC member churches to pray and intercede on behalf of the people of Iraq, before God, that the war forced upon them may come to an end and that peace with justice and dignity may prevail for all the people of Iraq.
- 18 May 2007 Letter to the Prime Minister of Jordan, Dr Marouf Suleiman al-Bakhit, regarding the government's decision to not recognise the legally elected His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem and All Palestine, and asking the government to reconsider its decision so that peace and harmony within the church prevail again.
- 1st June 2007 Letter to the Heads of Churches and Christian Communities in Jerusalem explaining that churches all around the world are organizing prayers, seminars and advocacy events on Sunday, 3 June 2007, in response to the call for a united witness, raising awareness in churches, in society and with their governments concerning the urgency of new efforts to end the occupation and to work for peace with justice.
- 18-20 June 2007 The Amman Call, made by representatives of Christian churches and church-related organizations from every corner of the earth, launched the "Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum" as an instrument to "catalyze and co-ordinate new and existing church advocacy for peace, aimed at ending the illegal occupation in accordance with UN resolutions, and demonstrate its commitment to inter-religious action for peace and justice that serves all the peoples of the region."
- 29 August 2007 Letter to His All Holiness Bartholomew I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople as a sign of support regarding the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals and subsequent acts by judicial authorities in Turkey which have again challenged the Patriarchate's long-established use of the title "Ecumenical".

## NORTH AMERICA

- 16 April 2007 Statement by WCC General Secretary regarding the 33 people who had been shot at the Virginia Tech University on 15 April 2007 and underlying that one of the major obstacles to effective global regulation of small arms and light weapons is the pro-gun position adopted by the US administration during years of international negotiations.

## LATIN AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN

- 23 May 2007 Letter of WCC General Secretary to Hon. Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State, United States of America, and to Rev. Robert Edgar, General Secretary of the NCCC in the USA, regarding Cuban citizens imprisoned in the US.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

- 20 February 2007 Joint Statement by the Global Roundtable on Climate Change.

## **PEACE AND DISARMAMENT**

- 27 Feb.-2 March Statement on the Need for Churches' Vigilance Against Nuclear Proliferation adopted by the Executive Committee reaffirming the churches' consistent call for the abolition of nuclear weapons, urging the UK government to set an historic example of leadership for the whole international community by fulfilling its disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, calling on churches to support the strengthening of the existing international mechanisms of verification and compliance, and appealing to the churches in the United States and China to persuade their governments to end their disagreement on a program of work and resolve the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament.
- 9 March 2007 Letter to the member churches of the WCC in the United Kingdom in view of the Trident nuclear weapons decision that was nearing a key vote in the parliament of the UK.

## **UNITED NATIONS**

- 27 Feb.-2 March Statement on the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission adopted by the Executive Committee appreciating the establishment of the Peace-building Commission that will mobilise and channel resources at the disposal of the international community to advise and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict recovery, and urging member churches to encourage and support the efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission, in post-conflict situations, in strengthening the links between peace and security, democracy and good governance.