

Document No 17

PROPOSAL FOR AN AMENDMENT TO RULE XVII

There was a request from EMW to review the wording of the Rule in order to intentionally combine mission and diakonia, and to make the participation of EMW (but also of some other ministries/offices/organizations) in conformity of both the spirit and the wording of the rule.

The proposed formulation was shared with EMW. They have expressed gratitude and promised to come back with any further suggestion that may have.

XVII. Specialized ministries ~~engaged in ecumenical relief and development~~

1. Specialized ministries ~~engaged in ecumenical relief and development~~ are those church-based, church-related or ecumenical ~~offices and~~ organizations within the family of WCC member churches, serving the ecumenical movement particularly in the areas of ~~world service mission, diakonia~~ and development.

Any specialized ministry committed to ecumenical ~~diaconal services witness and service~~ may be recognized by the central committee as an *ecumenical organization in working relationship with the World Council of Churches with which the World Council of Churches has working relationships*, provided:

- a) the organization, knowing the basis upon which the World Council of Churches is founded, expresses its willingness to relate to and cooperate with it; and
 - b) the WCC member church or churches with whom the specialized ministry is related do not formally oppose this form of relationship.
2. Each specialized ministry:
 - a) shall be invited to send a delegated representative to the assembly (cf. rule IV.1.b.5);
 - b) shall be invited to send an adviser to meetings of the central committee; and
 - c) shall be provided with copies of all general communications sent to all member churches of the World Council of Churches.
 3. In addition to communicating directly with its member churches, the World Council may inform each of these specialized ministries regarding important ecumenical developments and consult it regarding proposed World Council programmes in its area of commitment and expertise.
 4. In consultation with specialized ministries, the central committee shall establish and review from time to time guidelines regarding the relationships between the World Council of Churches and specialized ministries.

Clean text of rule XVII.1

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