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Fourth Report of the Policy and Reference Committee

The Policy and Reference Committee recommends that the Assembly adopt the following Resolutions:

I. STANDING RESOLUTION ON INCLUSIVENESS IN THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

BACKGROUND

- (1) In 2009, the LWF Council, meeting in Geneva, adopted the following resolution:

To ask the General Secretary to prepare a draft for a document on gender and youth participation in the LWF structures for appropriate action by the assembly in order to fulfill the resolution adopted by the LWF Assembly in Winnipeg 2003 that reads: “to request the new Council to clearly define the policy on gender balance in order to secure a common understanding in all regions for future assemblies.”(The Lutheran World Federation, Meeting of the LWF Council. Geneva, Switzerland, 22-27 October 2009, 13.5, p. 33, para. 225.)

- (2) The LWF has had a long history of including women and young people in its work and structures. In 1984, landmark decisions on the participation of women and lay persons were made by the Seventh Assembly at Budapest, Hungary.

On the participation of women,

The Seventh Assembly RESOLVED:

6.1 To request the LWF Executive Committee:

6.1.1. To develop a plan that would, with the cooperation of the member churches and the national committees, become effective at the Eighth Assembly and provide that 40 per cent of the delegates at the Eighth LWF Assembly be women, and that 50 per cent of the delegates at the Ninth and all subsequent LWF Assemblies be women.

6.1.1 To give consideration to preparing a representation formula that will provide:

6.1.2.1 That the membership of the LWF Executive Committee, the commissions, and the appointed advisory/governing committees, each and separately, be comprised of at least 40 per cent women and at least 40 per cent men.

6.1.2.2 That of the Officers as a group at least 40 percent be women and at least 40 percent be men, and that regional representation be considered in their selection.

6.1.2.3 That the membership of the LWF Executive Committee be at least 40 percent lay and at least 40 percent clergy. (Carl H. Mau (ed.), *Budapest 1984. 'In Christ—Hope*

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for the World. 'Proceedings of the Seventh Assembly, LWF Report 19/20 (Geneva: The Lutheran World Federation, 1985), 224.)

On the participation of young people,

The Seventh Assembly resolved,

7.1.5 That a balanced key be utilized to decide upon delegates for the next Assembly and that at least 20 per cent of the delegates be youth. Of particular concern is the regional balance of delegates under 30 years of age. Staff of the Youth Desk are to be involved in the discussion of and decision making on the new guidelines.

7.1.6 That a young person at LWF meetings and Assemblies normally be under the age of 30.

7.1.7. That there be one young person as a full member of each of the LWF commissions; that these young people be experienced in Lutheran youth work; and that geographical factors be taken into account." (Ibid., 229)

- (3) As standing resolutions, these texts are considered governing documents of the Lutheran World Federation (cf. Bylaws 10.3).
- (4) Twenty-six years after implementing the Budapest resolutions, further clarifications are needed. Following discussions with the LWF General Secretary and Cabinet, the following text will be submitted to the Constitution Committee, for recommendation to the Eleventh Assembly for its action:

Standing Resolution on Inclusiveness

- (5) On the occasion of the birth of the church at Pentecost, Peter quotes from the prophet Joel, "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." (Acts 2:17). Both males and females, both young and old are fully included in the church already (cf. also Gal 3:28), yet measures are needed to ensure that their voices and perspectives are fully represented, heard and included in the church and its decision-making processes.
- (6) Since its inception, but especially since the 1984 Budapest Assembly, the Lutheran World Federation and its member churches have been committed to witness to this new reality in Christ by reflecting this in their decision-making bodies and programs. Inclusiveness has become a Lutheran expression of what it means to be the church. Yet ongoing processes of critical ecclesial formation are necessary if we are live out this inclusiveness. Through numerical goals, we hold ourselves accountable to the inclusivity we seek. Numerical representation is not an end in itself, but a means for helping us to become a more inclusive communion. Besides numbers, the quality of the participation of women and youth and lay people continually needs to be developed and enhanced. The quality of our

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life together and the perspectives of the whole communion are enriched when the body becomes more inclusive of all its parts (1 Cor 12).

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

- (7) As a further step in this ongoing journey, the Eleventh Assembly adopts the following principles of inclusive representation, and encourages member churches to adopt similar measures to ensure full participation in their respective contexts. The current quota system has proven to be an important tool that enables participation of women in all the decision-making bodies, bringing the diversity which enriches our communion.**
- (8) The Assembly requests the General Secretary to: Evaluate the quota system since its introduction; review commitment to, and implementation of, the quota system (youth, lay and ordained, male and female, etc.) on all levels (governing bodies and its elected officers); report on the quota system to the LWF Council about the implementation of the principles of inclusive representation by the LWF as well as the member churches.**
- (9) This resolution is adopted as a governing document of the Federation (cf. Bylaws 10.3).**

LWF PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSIVITY

1. Gender balance

- (10) The LWF Assembly, Council, Officers, and all other committees and taskforces, including all regional levels shall be composed of at least forty percent women and at least forty percent men. And that the gender quota is respected also among youth representatives.**
- (11) In all activities it organizes, the LWF shall respect this basic principle, and LWF staff shall encourage those with whom it cooperates to do likewise¹. The basic principle also applies to executive staff in the LWF communion office.**

2. Generational balance

- (12) The LWF Assembly, Council, Officers and all other committees and taskforces, including all regional levels shall be composed of at least twenty percent young**

¹ Acknowledging the existing challenges, meetings and activities in which the basic principle has not been applied are not to be declared invalid, but their non-compliance with the basic principle shall be formally recognized and actions to improve need to be planned.

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people under the age of thirty at the time of the first meeting of the body to which they have been appointed. Regional balance shall be respected.

- (13) **This basic principle shall apply to all activities of the LWF communion office.²**

² Acknowledging the existing challenges, meetings and activities in which the basic principle has not been applied are not to be declared invalid, but their non-compliance with the basic principle shall be formally recognized and actions to improve need to be planned.

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3. Balance of laity and clergy

- (14) **The LWF Assembly, Council, Officers and all other committees and taskforces, including all regional levels shall be composed of at least forty percent lay persons. Gender and regional balance among the non-ordained members shall be respected.**

II. A RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

In light of the commitment of the LWF to environmental sustainability, it is requested that:

ASSEMBLY ACTION

- (15) **The LWF adopt a full environmental policy for its work and meetings. That the LWF prepare for certification under an international ecocertification system and audit scheme (EMAS), by 2012. In the environmental friendly planning of the meetings and assemblies to revert to the experiences of the German Evangelical Kirchentag. This policy will incorporate the measures already taken regarding the reduction of the carbon footprint of the LWF, such as the CO₂ emission compensation system and the reduction of the number of printed documents.**
- (16) **The LWF commit further in its efforts and actions in a number of areas, in order for the LWF to live up to its stands on environmental sustainability.**
- (17) **The LWF hold an experimental, virtual meeting of executives during the next four years in order to explore the feasibility of using virtual meetings, thereby saving economical and environmental resources. We ask the Council to make recommendations that would ensure that profound efforts are made to hold future Assemblies in an ecologically and economically sustainable manner.**
- (18) **The Communion purchase and promote fair trade and sustainable products. Likewise, we request that the LWF be certain to use food, snacks, coffee, gifts and so forth, whenever possible, which have been produced under fair conditions – often associated with the Fair Trade Certification.**
- (19) **Tap water be served instead of bottled water whenever the quality of the tap water allows it.**
- (20) **Locally and organically produced food be served during meetings and assemblies.**
- (21) **During meetings and assemblies that extend over multiple days, wholly vegetarian meals be served. Furthermore, the LWF encourage all participants to choose the vegetarian alternative as a way to contribute to environmental sustainability.**
- (22) **Regarding recycling and the distribution of materials:**

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- a) **Promote and employ recycling at the LWF secretariat, as well as during meetings and assemblies.**
 - b) **Avoid packaging food and gifts when possible.**
 - c) **Distribute material in written form only when necessary, and to refrain from handing out books and pamphlets liberally, but rather offer them to those who choose to receive them.**
- (23) **Regarding the venues of meetings:**
- a) **Always investigate possible ecological and sustainable alternatives to the proposed meeting and assembly venues.**
 - b) **Preferential option be given to hotels and meeting halls with an ecological awareness and profile. It also implies investigating the possibility of conducting meetings online.**
- (24) **That member churches only invest in ethical and environmentally-friendly funds and investments.**
- (25) **That the LWF and its member churches investigate new banking options- specifically focusing on ethical practices (like low corporate bonuses and not rewarding greed) and sustainability practices (like not contributing to the financial crisis).**
- (26) **That the Council formulate a public statement addressing greed and social, economic and environmental sustainability, food security in the context of climate change, and agro-ecological approaches to food production, distribution and consumption.**
- (27) **That the Council ensure that the environmental policy of the LWF covers other necessary areas in order to be extensive.**

III. A RESOLUTION ON LWF VISIBILITY AND THE ROLE OF YOUTH

- (28) **The Eleventh Assembly asks that the LWF implement regional committees for translation of all documents into the official languages. To accomplish this goal, the LWF shall identify and utilize the services of professional and volunteer translators chosen by the regions.**
- (29) **The Eleventh Assembly asks that the LWF consider creating permanent regional or sub-regional youth committees within each of the LWF regions. These committees should organize regular youth conferences on the regional level to help build a stronger youth constituency for the LWF, and to enhance the engagement of youth with the LWF.**
- (30) **Furthermore, all Assembly plenaries should report on the gender balance within the youth delegate representation.**

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IV. RESOLUTION ON RENEWING THE CURRENT FORM OF THE ASSEMBLY

- (31) **The Eleventh Assembly of The Lutheran World Federation requests the Council to organize a committee (according to the established quotas) that will investigate the possibilities to renew the current form of the LWF Assembly with the aim to increase the democratic influence of the participating delegates.**

V. RESOLUTION ON ECUMENICAL CONCILIAR COOPERATION

- (32) The Eleventh Assembly took note of the report of the renewal committee, particularly paragraph 12.
- (33) Radical changes in the global ecumenical landscape are happening very fast. Some ecumenical bodies are suffering and some have to deal with problems related to their continuation.
- (34) In the future it will be important for the LWF to strengthen its relationship to the World Council of Churches (WCC).
- (35) **Therefore the Council is requested to explore the possibility that the next assemblies of the LWF take place within the expanded space of the WCC assembly, together with other confessional bodies.**
- (36) In light of declining financial resources, it will become more urgent in the near future to strive for a more concise definition and distribution of the tasks and responsibilities among the different ecumenical bodies. This process will need to reflect the richness of the different identities of these bodies in order to be fruitful for the entire ecumenical community.

VI. RESOLUTION ON THEOLOGICAL FORMATION

- (37) With regard to the Report of the Renewal Committee, particularly Exhibit II, Annex II, it is recognized that the theological formation of leaders throughout the Lutheran World Federation is necessary to all members of the communion.
- (38) **The Eleventh Assembly requests that the LWF Council place theological formation as a central priority and assess this on a regular basis for the sake of the entire communion.**

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**VII. INCLUSIVITY AND PROPOSED DELEGATE LISTS FOR FUTURE
ASSEMBLIES**

- (39) **The Eleventh Assembly requests the new Council shall develop by-laws which would permit it to reject those proposed delegate lists from the regions for the LWF Assembly, which are not in keeping with the established inclusivity principles of this communion.**