

RESOLUTION

“DIACONAL RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS ECOLOGY”

The organization of DRAE gathered in Moshi, Tanzania from 21-26th July, 2011 under the theme, ‘Help from beyond the mountain’ declares the following concerns:

- We agree on the statement that the DIACONATE of the worldwide churches today takes care of people in need. Thus, fighting poverty as one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) is our main target. We want to expose our deepest concerns about the world economy today and its impact on ecology. The earth is exploited and bleeding because the most powerful transnational enterprises exploit both our common earth resources and the poor people.
- We cannot be silent and have to raise our voices against this injustice. Since we are here gathered in Tanzania, Africa, we want to help to raise the voice of Africa, the continent that is so badly exploited by the rich part of the world today¹.
- We recognize that the DIAKONIA of the church has both responsibilities, and abilities, to stand for the rights of humans and creation. Many countries and churches have already developed various responses and activities in this field.

The Earth Charter, formally adopted by thousands of organizations including UNESCO, outlines the principles of:

- respect and care for the community of life;
- ecological integrity
- social and economic justice
- democracy, nonviolence and peace

Informed by these principles, we would like to adopt the following principles for a more equitable world trade and system of sharing resources, and a good and sustainable way to organize our business enterprises.

Principle 1: God has ordained the creation of wealth for all humanity.

This includes fighting of poverty as one of the MDG’s.

Principle 2: The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, so the world and its entire people belong to God.

This means that humanity is only a kind of steward and more than that, only a part of the whole creation. So the responsibility for the earth is the same as that of humanity. Caring for the environment is mandatory.

¹ Economic Hope vs Economic Poor in developing countries, a paper presented by Clement Z. Kwayu at the Diakonia Region Africa Europe meeting, July 2011.

Principle 3: The biblical teaching in the creation of wealth for all is an exercise of justice.

Business activity is expected to be honest and correct. It is about ethics of the enterprise, not only maximizing of profits.

Principle 4: Today the world is bleeding with destructive aspects in the production of wealth.

The equilibrium in creation is quickly being completely distorted.

Principle 5: There is a greater responsibility for the rich in this world to share and to recognize that we are part of God's nation only.

Proposed by

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