

World Council of Churches
United Nations Advocacy Week
2007 Report

Church Center for the United Nations
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New York



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The World Council of Churches promotes Christian unity in faith, witness and service for a just and peaceful world. An ecumenical fellowship of churches founded in 1948, today the WCC brings together 347 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other churches representing more than 560 million Christians in over 110 countries, and works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Church.

The World Council of Churches United Nations Liaison Office (UNLO) at the UN Headquarters in New York works to make the voices of the churches and ecumenical organizations heard in order to influence the policy decisions made at the United Nations. The UNLO places special attention on ensuring that a common ecumenical perspective is developed and communicated and that the voices of the ecumenical community of the global south and most specifically the voices of victims are heard.

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Executive Summary

In 2007, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) of the World Council of Churches (WCC) featured 90 participants from 45 countries, representing diverse constituencies of churches, church agencies and regional ecumenical organizations for the Third Annual United Nations Advocacy Week (UNAW).

The goals of the week were to learn from the experience of the Churches and NGO representatives working daily with advocacy at the U.N; to provide opportunities to dialogue about the issues; and to create opportunities for advocacy with Permanent Missions of Member States. Compared with previous advocacy weeks, this emphasis on advocacy with Member States was a new initiative.

For 2007, the WCC chose to emphasize four themes, with particular attention on one of those themes as a primary focus for conducting advocacy with UN Member States. With this in mind, the primary advocacy focus of UNAW 2007 was the Greater Horn of Africa; the week also addressed the additional themes of water, nuclear disarmament and the Middle East, with an emphasis on Palestine and Israel.

The events of the week moved through four moments: (1) Setting the context for ecumenical advocacy, (2) deepening common understanding of priority advocacy issues, (3) engaging as one in ecumenical advocacy, and (4) setting common commitments to networking and follow-up for global ecumenical advocacy.

Because the advocacy emphasis was chosen to be the Greater Horn of Africa which is generally discussed as a peace and security issue in the UN Security Council (UNSC),¹ the participants engaged in ecumenical advocacy with members of the UNSC. Requests for meetings were sent to the five permanent members of the UNSC as well as the ten non-permanent members. Meetings were granted with representatives of the following Member States: Ghana, Slovakia, USA, Italy, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Additionally, UNAW 2007 was a significant moment to build relationships and the beginnings of a global ecumenical advocacy network. Participants and WCC staff members discussed and agreed that better communication would be helpful, and that this communication should flow between the UNLO and participants and vice-versa. With this in mind, the UNLO and participants agreed to a minimum of three moments of communication. They are as follows:

- 3 months – at this time, the UNLO agreed to send out the final report of the 2007 UNAW to all participants. This report would include the advocacy asks for participants to take forward within their churches or agencies.
- 6 months – at this time, the participants agreed to send to UNLO the responses from within their own organizations about engaging with the issues discussed at UNAW. For example, if their church joined the Ecumenical Water Network or the Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum, they would share this with the UNLO. Additionally, the UNLO agreed to distribute information about the 2008 UNAW.
- 9 months – at this time, the UNLO agreed to share the reporting from participants on the progress made within their churches or agencies on the themes of UNAW 2007.

¹ More information about the UNSC can be found at: www.un.org/docs/sc

Introduction

In 2007, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) of the World Council of Churches (WCC) brought together key people responsible for international affairs and advocacy in member churches, specialized ministries and ecumenical organizations for the third United Nations Advocacy Week (UNAW). The week of meetings serves to advance ecumenical co-operation and advocacy on strategic issues in the current international political environment at the United Nations.

The UNAW began in November 2003, when the WCC brought together about 60 people for a week of mutual sharing and common strategizing. At the end of the week, there was a clear and unanimous recommendation from the participants to meet again in November 2004. Now, post Porto Alegre, the WCC has successfully conducted the third annual UNAW.

With the help of open prayer, discussions, mission visits with UN Member States and receptions, the week served to promote the work, concerns and visibility of the churches at the United Nations. The working sessions were held at the Church Center for the United Nations, a historical building known for being a beacon of truth, located directly across the street from U.N. Headquarters.

The goals of the week were to learn from the experience of the Churches and NGO representatives working daily with advocacy at the U.N; to provide opportunities to dialogue about the issues; and to create opportunities for advocacy with Permanent Missions of Member States.

An ecumenical planning team met in July to confirm the selection of themes and to discuss plans for the sessions of each UNAW focus area.² This group planned the week to be divided into four moments: (1) Setting the context for ecumenical advocacy, (2) deepening common understanding of priority advocacy issues, (3) engaging as one in ecumenical advocacy, and (4) setting common commitments to networking and follow-up for global ecumenical advocacy.

In each of these moments, the UNAW focused on the intersection between identifying the specific, unique UN related dimension of the issues, discussing the core of the issues from an advocacy perspective and identifying the ecumenical contribution to advocacy initiatives.

For 2007, the WCC chose to emphasize four themes, with particular attention to one of those themes as a primary focus for conducting advocacy with UN Member States. The advocacy focus of UNAW was the Greater Horn of Africa; the week also addressed the additional themes of water, nuclear disarmament and the Middle East, with emphasis on Palestine and Israel. The planning and visioning for each issue was led by a WCC staff member, and the session organizing was led by ecumenical partners in New York.

The week began and ended with worship and prayer. Worship services integrated the leadership of youth leadership in each of the sessions. Additionally, each day was highlighted by an opening devotional; while theological and ethical perspectives permeated the reflection on the issues.

² The planning team included staff from the following organizations: Anglican Communion Office, Church World Service, Lutheran World Federation, National Council of Churches USA, Office of the Chaplain of the Church Center for the United Nations, Presbyterian Church USA, United Methodist General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Women's Division, World Council of Churches, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

Introductory Session

Launching United Nations Advocacy Week (UNAW), the introductory session featured the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Rev. Dr. Sam Kobia and Acting Co-Director of Public Witness, Dr. Guillermo Kerber.³ Rev. Chris Ferguson, Representative of the World Council of Churches to the United Nations in New York, also spoke briefly to welcome all participants.

Rev. Kobia highlighted some of the challenges to ecumenism in the 21st century, shared some of the rich history of the WCC's work at the United Nations, and spoke about a quest for a new advocacy paradigm.

He reiterated that "advocacy must be rooted in the vision of power derived from the gospel, a vision of power based on humility, on non-violence, on prayer and spiritual discernment." He continued, saying that "spiritual discernment directs our attention to people's lives, to questioning trendy interpretations of economics and societies, to searching for the deeper reality that gives our advocacy depth and passion and the strength of our convictions."

He closed by expressing thanks for the ecumenical organizations that helped to plan UNAW and wishing the group a very fruitful week of deliberations in efforts to enhance human dignity, and for the glory of God.

Dr. Kerber shared the history and purposes of UNAW. He emphasized that the first UNAW was in 2003, and each week has improved on the experiences from the previous years. He highlighted a consultation held in November 2006 in Geneva, where the group agreed that "the week [should] have a clear focus but be able to cover a wide variety of issues. The week should be a setting for common advocacy at the UN, sharing information, building common strategies, strengthening networks and for conveying of workgroups on priority issues of common concern." He added that "it is imperative to ensure proper follow up."

On the topic of theology and advocacy, Dr. Kerber shared his understanding in three basic components: accompaniment, solidarity and public witness, which belong together (life in community-*koinonia*, service-*diakonia* and witness-*martyria*). He noted that "advocacy as public campaign or public statement is meaningless if it does not build on ongoing engagement with people and their concern for life in all its dimensions. He noted that this should be a distinctive mark of the WCC and the ecumenical movement."

Finally, he closed by saying he strongly believed that "the ethical and theological dimension of the UNAW should continue to be further strengthened and developed. Here we need to go beyond traditional partners and invite others like theological Seminars and institutions to have their own insights. I hope next editions of the UNAW will be able to materialize this partnership with theological institutions."



Rev. Sam Kobia, WCC General Secretary
Photo: M. Neuroth/ CWS

³ Rev. Dr. Sam Kobia and Dr. Guillermo Kerber's speeches are featured in Annex II.

Session I: Setting the Context for Ecumenical Advocacy

This session featured three speakers: United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Asha Rose Migiro; Dr. Elizabeth Ferris, Senior Fellow and Co-Director at the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement; and Ambassador H.E. Dumisani Kumalo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations.⁴ Rev. Tyrone Pitts, General Secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, moderated this session in the program.



Dr. Migiro's speech introduced some of the critical challenges and opportunities facing the United Nations. She began by stressing the importance of civil society, especially the churches' presence in this international arena. "Whether we are speaking of our work in peace and security, development, or human rights, civil society organizations, such as the World Council of Churches, play a crucial role in our shared mission to create a better world for all," stated the UN Deputy Secretary General.

Speaking about the priority theme for the week, she mentioned that "the focus on this subregion is fitting and timely." She highlighted some of the difficulties that the international community is facing in the region, but she also highlighted some of the progress that has been made.

She emphasized that the Governments and people in the Horn of Africa and throughout the continent are working hard to overcome the longstanding challenges of poverty. While many African States have already made good progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), overall, the continent is not on track to reach these essential development targets by the year 2015.

Dr. Migiro underscored the importance that strengthened global partnerships are required to meet the Goals; noting that "progress demands shared responsibility." She announced that she would be chairing the newly launched Millennium Development Goals Africa Working Group, with the aim to accelerate efforts to follow through on existing promises by focusing clearly on implementation of the MDGs.

Dr. Ferris shared some provocative ideas regarding advocacy at the UN. She highlighted that the churches have a tremendous constituency of members who are rooted in their national settings and yet connected to this global network at the United Nations. This broad constituency base provides an opportunity for collective advocacy – not only at the United Nations in New York, but in capitals in nearly every country in the world, to bring forward religious, moral, and ethical perspectives.

She reiterated that the UN is a very important tool, though a far from perfect institution. She reminded the participants that there are many proposals on the table to reform the UN, and that putting significant effort into making it more effective is worthwhile.

⁴ The speeches of the first two speakers and notes from the discussion of the Ambassador can be found in Annex II.

She emphasized that “while most of the media attention [on the UN] focuses on peace and security issues, UN agencies are powerful operational actors” and that civil society actors have many opportunities and “ability to influence them.” She also offered that it is important to be prepared to offer suggestions for policy change. Dr. Ferris also encouraged participants preparing for advocacy to set priorities, as it is impossible to cover all of the issues.

The final speaker, Ambassador Kumalo of South Africa, briefly spoke about each of the focus areas of the UNAW in a UN context. He raised examples of water being a security issue, emphasizing that while water is a sustainable development issue at the UN, “we have not managed to deal with it as a security issue.”

He highlighted the issue of nuclear disarmament, with particular attention to the alleged development of nuclear weapons in Iran. He raised some of the various concerns of non-nuclear States regarding nuclear energy, especially with regard to access to power. He also highlighted the ‘domino effect’ of States continuing to develop nuclear weapons.

In regards to Israel and Palestine, Ambassador Kumalo noted that “the Palestinian split has complicated the work towards peace and reconciliation” and that “the situation on the ground is getting worse.” Israel has declared Gaza a ‘hostile entity’, which means [Israel] can do anything [to protect itself]. One day, Israel says it will release 1000 Palestinians, but then 1000 more are arrested.

Concerning the Horn of Africa, Ambassador Kumalo stated, “If none of the permanent members of the UN Security Council care about a country, as in the case of Somalia, suffering goes on and on.” Alluding to a power imbalance, he expressed the feeling that “to a great extent the same permanent members run the General Assembly and the Secretariat.”

Session II: Ecumenical Advocacy Priorities

The World Council of Churches (WCC) annual United Nations Advocacy Week (UNAW) is an opportunity to make the work and concerns of the churches more visible at the United Nations and with Member States. The goals of the week were to learn from the experience of the Churches and NGO representatives working daily with advocacy at the U.N; to provide opportunities to dialogue about the issues; and to create opportunities for advocacy with Permanent Missions of Member States.

In reaching these goals, the week of meetings served to advance ecumenical cooperation and advocacy on strategic issues at the United Nations.

An ecumenical planning team met in July to confirm the selection of themes and to discuss plans for the sessions of each UNAW focus area. The planning and visioning for each issue was led by a WCC staff member, and the session organizing was led by ecumenical partners in New York.

During past advocacy weeks, there has been emphasis on a number of issues, including: human rights, Israel/Palestine, responsibility to protect, impunity, nuclear disarmament, UN reform and economic justice, churches response to conflicts, specifically addressing the situations of Angola, Colombia, Indonesia, Iraq and Sudan.⁵ These issues continue to be priorities for the ecumenical community and were clearly reflected in this advocacy week.

For 2007, the WCC chose to emphasize four themes, with particular attention to one of those themes as a primary focus for conducting advocacy with UN Member States. With each of the themes, session organizers worked to keep in mind the ongoing nature of the issues, with consideration of how the ecumenical community can continue to collaborate through a global, ecumenical advocacy network.

The emphasis on advocacy with Member States was a new initiative compared with previous advocacy weeks. The intention was to use the advocacy week as a mechanism to educate, empower and promote leadership in advocacy within the ecumenical community. The WCC's unique contribution in advocacy lies in its global constituency. Working with that global constituency to coordinate advocacy efforts at the UN and in national capitals would create a mutually-reinforcing mechanism to strengthen the overall advocacy work of the churches.

The primary focus of UNAW 2007 was the Greater Horn of Africa; the week also addressed the additional themes of water, nuclear disarmament and the Middle East, with emphasis on Palestine and Israel. The following pages contain summaries of each of the discussion sessions.



Gaim Kebreab
Photo: T. Abraham/ CWS

⁵ Reports of past advocacy weeks are available at : www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/international/advocweek04.html

Part A: Palestine and Israel

30 October 2007

Session Organizer: Mr. Joel Hanisek
Representative to the United Nations
Presbyterian Church USA

Note taker: Mr. Joel Hanisek
Representative to the United Nations
Presbyterian Church USA

Welcome: PIEF Introduction and the Amman Call

Speaker: Mr. Michel Nseir
Programme Executive for the Middle East
World Council of Churches

It is my pleasure and honor to be among you this morning, and introduce this first session dedicated to the situation in the Middle East in general, and to the conflict in Israel and Palestine in particular.

For over fifty years, the WCC has issued more than thirty public statements, minutes, appeals, and also open letters to key players in the ME region, pastoral letters to member churches, and other analysis documents. They were all related to the situation in Israel Palestine in particular and in the ME in general. These documents were issued by General Assemblies, and by Central and Executive Committees. It is extremely difficult, during this short presentation, to go through all of them analyzing the position of the WCC and evaluating their impact on the member churches, on the situation in the region, and on the different decision making bodies.

In September 2006, the WCC General Secretary, in his report to the Central Committee, consecrated an important part to the situation in Israel and Palestine, and proposed to the ecumenical family the creation of an ecumenical forum for Israel and Palestine. The Central Committee resolved to establish the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) as the cornerstone of a comprehensive ecumenical advocacy initiative on the Middle East. The Central Committee described the 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 to justice that serves all the peoples of region.”*

Meetings were held in December 2006 and February 2007 to work on both the concept of the Forum and its launching process.

The launching took place in Amman last June during an International Peace Conference that brought together all the church leaders in Jerusalem with church representatives from the ME, Europe, North and Latin America, Asia and Africa. Also present were regional ecumenical organizations and representatives from main specialized ministries and church agencies, with NGOs and church related organizations, mainly from Palestine and Israel.

Amman Call: the action on the Forum has been taken in response of three fundamental imperatives:

- 1) Ethical and theological imperative of a just peace
- 2) Ecumenical imperative for unity in action
- 3) The Gospel imperative for costly solidarity

The premises of this action are the following:

- That UN resolutions are the basis for peace and the Geneva conventions are applicable to the rights and responsibilities of the affected people.

- That Palestinians have the right of self-determination and the right of return.
- That a two-state solution must be viable politically, geographically economically and socially.
- That Jerusalem must be an open, accessible, inclusive and shared city for the two peoples and three religions.
- That both Palestine and Israel have legitimate security needs.
- That the Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories are illegal, and constitute an obstacle to peace.
- That the “Separation Barrier” constructed by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories is a grave breach of international law and must be removed from the occupied territory.
- That there is no military solution for this conflict. Violence in all its forms cannot be justified whether perpetrated by Israelis or Palestinians.
- That comprehensive regional peace is indivisible from a just peace in Israel and Palestine.
- That the life and witness of local churches is at the center of worldwide church advocacy for a just peace.

Achieving a just peace under the rule of law is the strongest option for ensuring the well-being and security of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. This is the core of the World Council of Churches policy toward the conflict. It is a conviction that has grown as 40 years of illegal occupation of Palestinian territory has claimed lives, distorted the rights of both peoples and deepened the conflict between them. In making policy the WCC is attentive to those who are suffering, recognizes UN resolutions as the basis for peace and is watchful that the Geneva Conventions determine the occupying power’s responsibilities in the meantime. Policy is set by the WCC Assembly (WA), Central Committee (CC) and Executive Committee (EC).

Seeing the Situation: OCHA and UNRWA

Moderator: Mr. Joel Hanisek
 Representative to the United Nations
 Presbyterian Church USA

Speakers: Mr. Saahir Lone
 Senior Liaison Office
 UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

Mr. Aurelien Buffler
 Desk Officer of the Middle East
 UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

The OCHA oPt office in New York spoke to the humanitarian impact on Palestinians from the ongoing settlements in the West Bank and other Israeli infrastructure, such as the Barrier and the roads that accompany them. OCHA's analysis shows that more than 38% of the West Bank is now taken up by Israeli infrastructure. Roads linking settlements and other infrastructure to Israel, in conjunction with an extensive system of checkpoints and roadblocks, have fragmented the West Bank into a series of enclaves separating Palestinian communities from each other. The socio-economic impact has been profound.

The UNRWA office in New York presented a bleak picture of current Palestinian economic conditions and prospects for future growth under conditions of closure and restricted movement. The presentation highlighted the immediate and longer term damage wrought by the continued lack of investment spending in the private and public sectors in the oPt. Despite the hopes offered by emerging international momentum for peace, it was reiterated that developments on the ground point to a worsening of conditions. Gaza in particular has been placed under unbearable strain. Alongside the almost complete isolation of Gaza, the continued construction of the separation barrier and settlement activity in the West Bank place further hurdles on the path to economic recovery and growth.

Assessing the Situation: International Law

Speaker: Mr. Wassim Khazmo
Negotiations Support Unit Project

In his presentation on “International Law vs. Unilateralism,” Mr. Khazmo spoke briefly about the Oslo Process, Israel’s wall, Jerusalem and road networks in West Bank.

In the historic compromise of the Oslo Process, the Palestinian National Authority was granted only 22% of the total land in the disputed areas of the West Bank and Gaza. 85% of the Palestinian population lived in 18% of this land. The Palestinian National Authority had high hopes for this compromise. In the years 1993-1999, Israel doubled the settler population in the occupied Palestinian territory.

By international law, Israel has no right to land on other side of the wall. The wall is actually inside Palestinian territory, incorporating land but also resources to reincorporate into Israel. Palestinians are also isolated west of the wall, trapped on the Israeli side and separated from arable land. 12% of the West Bank was been taken into Israel. The area remaining for Palestine is 54% of what was agreed to in the Oslo Process.

Within Jerusalem is 35% of the Palestinian economy, but the Palestinians are living in slum/underdeveloped areas of East Jerusalem. There is no effort by the Israelis to change the living situation of the Palestinians therefore hoping that the Palestinians leave.

The road network is a system of internal closures. Palestinians cannot travel within Palestinian territory without an Israeli permit. This leads to a humanitarian crisis concerning access to supplies, employment, health care, etc. The road networks, paid for by the Israeli state, are a plan to consolidate Israeli control over settlements.

Acting on the Situation

Moderator: Rev. Kjell Magne Bondevik
Moderator
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Speakers: Mr. Joseph Donnelly
Permanent Delegate to the UN
Caritas Internationalis

Dr. Rima Salah (*speech in annex*)
Former Deputy Executive Director
UNICEF

Mr. Stein Villumstad
Deputy Secretary General
World Conference of Religions for Peace



Rev. Kjell Magne Bondevik
Photo: M. Neuroth/ CWS

Mr. Donnelly pointed out that Caritas has been involved in the Janine refugee camp accompaniment program. In the UN sphere, there has been progress, such as the use of the term “Palestine” and bringing the Question of Palestine to the forefront, especially in terms of education about Israeli occupation. The job of churches is to *walk with*. This includes finding the courage to use the terminology of Palestine, and of Israel, asking the whole question. The work of faith bases groups is to accompany the entire process and find the good people on both sides, and then to talk about human stories in relation to political headlines. The faith-

based NGO community challenges the indictment to silence, especially at government missions, working to inventory reality and work with our own countries.

Ms. Salah⁶ shared that UNICEF, in partnership with faith-based organization, focuses part of its work on the children of Israel-Palestine. This partnership makes clear that the love of peace is incompatible with the violation of human rights. Many hundreds of children were killed since the end of the second Intifada and many thousands arrested, detained, and displaced. Institutions like education and health are faltering under financial restrictions. One third of Palestinian families say their children suffer from trauma distress and psychosocial behavior. Alleviation efforts start with justice and accountability efforts, like Resolution 1612 of the Security Council. Accelerated peace efforts for justice and reconciliation include working with networks of all types of organizations and processes on the ground and in institutions. This work is to affect policy and raise consciousness through interreligious and religious-secular collaboration. UNICEF is advancing this work through the publication of a book in conjunction with the Arigatou Foundation in Japan through a book project called *Children and World Religions*.

Mr. Villumstad noted that the ecumenical community has spiritual, moral and social assets. They also work with personalities and institutions. All this comes together in the work of religious actors through interfaith dialogue, good works, and peacebuilding efforts. They focus on preventive diplomacy, witnessing and crisis mediations with parties at conflict. There are various roles of the players (insider, outsider) and one goal of the community should be to integrate these players together and give voice to all. The advantages of the variety of organizations, efforts, and initiatives by the faith community in Israel-Palestine are a commitment to multi-religious cooperation. The community ought to identify assets, instruments and action to proceed.

Each speaker and the moderator shared one final comment on what s/he thought was the most important message to ecumenical community about Israel-Palestine:

- visit the area;
- pressure governments on resolutions;
- work grassroots short-stories and empower women to be part of solution; and
- bring outsiders inside and dialogue for humanitarian action.

⁶ Ms. Salah's entire speech can be found in Annex II.

Part B: Nuclear Disarmament

30 October 2007

Session Organizer: Mr. Jonathan Frerichs
Programme Executive on Nuclear Disarmament
World Council of Churches

Note taker: Ms. Christina Papazoglou
Programme Executive for Human Rights
World Council of Churches

Revitalizing the will to disarm

Moderator: Mr. Jonathan Frerichs
Programme Executive on Nuclear Disarmament
World Council of Churches

Speakers: Dr. Kyung Seo Park
Director
North East Asia Peace Institute

Mr. Alyn Ware
International Coordinator
Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Disarmament

Ms. Cora Weiss
President
Hague Appeal for Peace

Dr. Kyung Seo Park⁷ noted that Korea is the only country that has still been divided for the last 62 years, against the will of its population. He stressed the yearning of the people of Korea for peace after all the



Dr. Kyung Seo Park
Photo: M. Neuroth/ CWS

armed conflict which was the result of the confrontation of the two super powers (USA and USSR). He underlined his anxiety about the denuclearization process of the Korean Peninsula. He noted that the over half-century antagonistic conflicts between USA and North Korea have become even more serious after the first Nuclear Test by the North Korea last October.

It is for that reason that he believes it is even more compelling that all the parties involved seek for an alternative peaceful solution, as those nations within the Six-Party Talks have been seeking for some years now. He expressed his belief that after the second Summit meeting, the Six-Party Talks are moving to the right path and he also noted that the developments in the recent summit meeting between two Koreas has shown that the people's will for denuclearization on Korean Peninsula will be implemented in the near future.

He stressed that the people have played a major role in the peace and pro democracy movement in Korean modern history in the area of true democratisation and he reinstated

⁷ Dr. Park's entire speech can be found in Annex II.

his belief that the peace-people movements constitute the means for the revitalisation of the disarmament. He mentioned characteristically that North and South Korea are about to create their first “official” joint cheering squad for an international sports event. The cheering squad is going to go to the 2008 Beijing Olympics via the Seoul-Sinuiju railway connecting North and South Korea.

He concluded his presentation by expressing his strong belief that efforts should first start from the grassroots with congregations and even Sunday schools and then from the regional powers. He also noted that churches in Korea have provided significant financial aid to North Korea.

Mr. Alyn Ware pointed out that Nuclear Weapons constitute a violation of human core principles, embodied in various international instruments, including the United Nations Charter. He underlined the importance of shifting towards a more human approach to security that is the concept of human security.

He remarked that New Zealand had been a very pro-nuclear nation. The human security question started rising when the effects of nuclear testing in the Pacific started making their appearance. It was very difficult to deny the connection between the various deformities in affected populations and nuclear bomb tests. One result was that peace education was instituted in New Zealand public schools. This has changed public attitudes and provides a base for advocacy with governments.

Ware noted that a very efficient way to draw attention to this serious threat is through real stories. Within this context he mentioned the story of Sadako, a two-year-old girl when the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. At age 11, Sadako was diagnosed with Leukemia, “the atom-bomb disease.” Sadako’s best friend told her of an old Japanese legend which said that anyone who folds a thousand paper cranes would be granted a wish. Sadako hoped that the gods would grant her a wish to get well so that she could run again. She started to work on the paper cranes and completed over 644 before dying on October 25, 1955 at the age of twelve. Inspired by her courage and strength, Sadako’s friends and classmates finished up the 1000 paper cranes and put together a book of her letters and published it. In 1958, a statue of Sadako holding a golden crane was unveiled in Hiroshima Peace Park. Today, people all over the world fold paper cranes and send them to Sadako’s monument in Hiroshima. Ware mentioned that during New Zealand’s ‘Peace Week’ children make such cranes.

He underlined the power and contribution of people’s concerns in advocating for nuclear disarmament and also the vital role of civil society in the promotion of nuclear weapon free zones (NWFZ). He said that it was ordinary people in New Zealand who got involved and declared their homes, schools, businesses nuclear-weapon-free zones. Finally the whole country of New Zealand was declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Ware referred to treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in Latin America, the South Pacific, Africa and South East Asia as well as the September 2006 treaty signed by five Central Asian states establishing a Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. Together, these have practically excluded the stationing of nuclear weapons on all territories south of the equator and he challenged the participants to advocate towards making their own regions NWFZ.

“More and more, nuclear weapons are de-legitimized,” Ware said. He referred to an initiative of a group of countries—including New Zealand, Chile, Sweden, Nigeria, Switzerland who called on Russia and the United States of America to stand down their nuclear force and to draft Nuclear Weapons Convention (submitted to all States party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty), which is about to be submitted to the UN Security Council.

“It is time to reenergise the idea of abolition of nuclear weapons,” Ware said, “and in that process ordinary people should be mobilised and involved.”

Ms. Cora Weiss⁸ called Nuclear Disarmament “a moral, legal, health, environmental, gender, economic and survival issue.” Ms. Weiss shared how she became involved in advocating around nuclear issues, beginning

⁸ Ms. Weiss’ entire speech can be found in Annex II.

in 1961 when the USA was testing nuclear bombs in the atmosphere. At that time, “Women Strike for Peace” was created and started to fund projects aiming at exposing the dangers involved in the use of nuclear weapons. She underlined the important role that women’s organisations played during the Hague peace conferences of the 19th century to the present time. Ms. Weiss noted that the role of women in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security was recognised by Security Council in Resolution 1325 (2000), ‘Women, Peace and Security’. “Nonetheless,” she said, “there are relatively few women engaged in the nuclear weapons abolition dialogue at the inter-governmental level.”

Weiss noted her belief that nuclear weapons are used every day, despite the universal popular belief that they haven’t been used since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. She said this because she believes that “[nuclear weapons] are used, in effect, each time a nuclear weapon state sits down to negotiate with a state that does not have nuclear weapons.”

Although the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) foresees the end of nuclear weapons, the term 'non-proliferation' unfortunately does not mean abolition or prohibition of nuclear weapons. According to Ms. Weiss, the problem is that “nuclear weapon states want to keep their weapons indefinitely and at the same time condemn others who would attempt to acquire them.” The moral courage and authority to bring change in this situation are lacking.

Weiss stressed that public protest can only happen through public education. She concluded by saying that “it will take the coordinated efforts of various stakeholders--civil society included--in order to work towards a better future.”

Debunk Doctrine? Re-stigmatize Weapons? Brainstorming ‘Glocal’ Church Strategy?

Moderator: Mr. Jonathan Frerichs
Programme Executive on Nuclear Disarmament
World Council of Churches

Speakers: Mr. John Burroughs
Executive Director
Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Disarmament

H.E. Archbishop Celestino Migliore
Apostolic Nuncio
Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations

Ms. Rhianna Tyson
Programme Officer
Global Security Institute

Mr. John Burrows started his presentation by stating that during the eighties and early nineties various civil society organisations worked on reduction and elimination of nuclear arsenals but the decline in armaments was mainly due to budgetary problems. “Now, however, there seems to an opportunity to raise the issue of reductions for purposes of disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons,” he said, “and churches should contribute towards this goal.” They should use their leverage to pressure their own governments to bring progress at the multilateral, international level. Most governments do support the various UN resolutions and treaties on disarmament but in general they should move this issue up to their priorities. According to Burrows, a strategic way of thinking would entail the search for ways on how to activate the public especially in countries like the USA, Russia, China, India, etc; meaning focus on countries in possession of nuclear weapons.

He stressed the need for the United States to ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty and along with other nuclear weapon states like Russia to take implementing measures like making deep cuts in their arsenals and dismantling the warheads cut.

He also referred to Article VI of the NPT according to which 'The states undertake to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament', and towards a "general and complete disarmament" under strict and effective international control. He commented on the fact that the notion of 'good faith' has been the subject of numerous definitions and called the churches to also provide one and fulfill their obligation to pursue it.

He also made a reference to the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on the "Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons" issued in 1996, according to which the use or threat of use of Nuclear weapons was found generally incompatible with humanitarian law. He noted that there was a failure on the part of the Court to address all the possible situations connected to the use of nuclear weapons. Taking a case back to the ICJ is one of the options on the agenda now.

Finally he made a special reference to the report of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission chaired by Hans Blix concerning the ways to reduce dangers posed by nuclear and other WMDs worldwide.⁹

H.E. Archbishop Celestino Migliore assessed the International Community as somewhat inactive on disarmament at present. He referred to the Blix report and to the fact that it called for the outlawing of all nuclear weapons. He mentioned that the International Atomic Energy Agency needs stronger support from the international community and underlined the particular responsibility of the nuclear states to pursue disarmament.

He noted that the Holy See had given limited acceptance of Nuclear weapons during the Cold War, in the view that nuclear deterrence would be one step closer to their progressive elimination. He stressed that the use of nuclear weapons for security was criticized as fallacious by Pope John Paul II. He underlined that the role of churches is to emphasize and clarify the values of morality that are behind this issue. It is also necessary to work with the people involved in the arms industry and the military because they have an obligation to respect human dignity as well. Nuclear arms used in warfare goes against God's creation, destroys human lives and constitutes a major threat to the viability of the planet.

Ms. Rhianna Tyson, after making a short presentation of the Global Security Institute and its work, said that "nuclear abolition constitutes a moral imperative." Using quotes from Albert Schweitzer, George Kennan and others, she outlined the complete inadmissibility of these weapons. She noted that military leaders also recognise that nuclear weapons are useless. They are politically devastating and economically draining.

She stressed the need for religious leaders to articulate the need for abolition and to educate and empower their constituency. In her view advocacy must start first and foremost on the ground. The approach she recommended was to:

- a. Articulate the imperative of abolishing nuclear weapons by drawing on the Christian religious tradition;
- b. Create a powerful (visual) image;
- c. Educate and empower your constituency, e.g. parish to governments to UN;
- d. Generate national political will. Starting point for churches could be parish pulpits in the nuclear weapons states especially the Permanent Five members of the Security Council;
- e. Now is the time to re-frame the issue. This is a 'kairos' moment.

In general all speakers stressed the need to revitalise the will to disarm and to advocate on regional, national and international level towards this goal. All pointed to the pivotal role that civil society and especially churches can play in setting the agenda on that issue.

⁹ The report of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission can be found at: www.wmdcommission.org/

Part C: Water

31 October 2007

Session Organizer: Mr. Michael Neuroth
Associate for International Policies
Church World Service

Note taker: Dr. Guillermo Kerber
Programme Executive for Water
World Council of Churches

Welcome: Framing the discussion

Moderator: Mr. Michael Neuroth
Associate for International Policies
Church World Service

Michael Neuroth related the topic of the day with the issues discussed previously and would be discussing after this session, namely the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. Access to water is a key issue in the conflicts in these regions. Referring to Beth Ferris' presentation, Neuroth said that "if we ask ourselves what are the challenges of the world today, with no doubt, water is one of them."

Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis

Speaker: Ms. Cecilia Ugaz
Senior Policy Advisor
United Nations Development Programme

Ms. Cecilia Ugaz based her presentation on the UNDP 2006 Human Development Report: Beyond scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis¹⁰. She highlighted two aspects of the global water crisis:

Water for life which tries to address the widespread violation of the basic human right to water. In the world today, 1.1 billion people are lacking access to water while 2.6 billion are lacking access to sanitation.

Water for livelihoods which tries to address the consequences of climate change which has become a huge threat to human development.

To have an idea of the magnitude of the crisis:

- Nearly 5000 children deaths per day
- Thousands of school days lost each year
- Diseases and productivity losses
- 40 billion hours per year spent in collecting water in sub Saharan Africa.

It is very clear, Ms. Ugaz stressed, that above all, the Water Crisis is a crisis for the poor. The water divide clearly shows that while rich people have access to water, poor people do not. For example, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the rich neighborhood use an average of 166 litres per day, while in the poor ones they only use 19. To see it in perspective, in Latin America people use an average of 350 litres per day.

¹⁰ A PowerPoint summary of the main content of the Report, including the slides used by Ms. Ugaz, may be found at:
http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr_2006_en.ppt

Furthermore, the poorer people are the more they pay. To be connected to water in Kenya or Uganda costs US \$100, this constitutes six months of income for a poor family in Kenya or more than a year in Uganda.

All of this means that the MDGs will not meet the deadline in relationship to water, e.g. in Sub-Saharan Africa access to water will be met in 2040 and to sanitation in 2070. Therefore we must ask ourselves: Can we afford not to make the necessary investments? The investments required to achieve the MDGs is 10 billion USD per year. But the economic benefits of meeting the MDG targets would amount to 38 billion, with 15 billion in sub Saharan Africa.

When we look at water for human consumption some of the key findings include the following: the wealth divide; water scarcity risk as closely related to vulnerability; by 2025, more than 3 billion people could be living in water-stressed countries.

The water crisis is intimately related to climate change. For the world's poor people climate change projections point to less security, greater vulnerability to hunger and poverty, worsening inequalities and more environmental degradation. Sub-Saharan Africa is and will be the most affected region of the world. Water insecurity linked to climate change threatens to increase malnutrition by 75-120 million people. Melting glaciers pose a threat to more than 40% of the world population. Global warming shows what can be called the predictable emergency. Challenges are immense both in mitigation and adaptation. The UNDP 2007 Human Development Report, to be presented in late November focuses on this: "Fighting climate change: human solidarity in a divided world"¹¹.

As a last point, Ms. Ugaz highlighted the human right to water, emphasizing the need to provide access step by step, recognition in the National Constitutions, and implementation of its consequences. To do so, it is crucial to mainstream water in many discussions.

Ecumenical Responses: Human Rights and Development

Speakers: Mr. Michael Windfuhr
Human Rights Director
Bread for the World

Mr. Gaim Kebreab
Senior Advisor: Economic, Social and Political Rights
Norwegian Church Aid

Mr. Michael Windfuhr focused his presentation in four points:

- *What do we mean with the right to water?*
- *What is the added value to look at water from a rights based perspective?*
- *An overview of the political debate*
- *The Ecumenical Water Network*

In its General Comment #15 on the implementation of Articles 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social Rights, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted that "the human right to water is indispensable for leading a life of human dignity. It is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights."¹² Firmly established in a number of international human rights instruments, States may voluntarily ratify and accept the obligation to uphold the human right to water.

What can we expect as citizens from our governments in relationship to the right to water? Governments are supposed to: respect the existing access to water; protect people who are threatened to be disconnected;

¹¹ Available at : <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008>

¹² The right to water, General Commitment #15, Substantive Issues arising on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C. 12/2002/11.

promote the access to those who don't have it. It is a right which can be claimed. International development aid can help in implementing the right to water.

What is the added value to look at water from a rights based perspective? This perspective stresses the accountability of the governments and responds to the most vulnerable. If we take the example of Kenya, we can see the government was very effective in connecting middle class people to water, but slum areas do not have access to water at all.

Where are we in the political arena? It is clear that governments don't like to have another issue that can go to Court. Governments are reluctant to accept the right to water, although some governments are ready to accept it and promote it and in some national constitutions, the right to water is already included.

The Ecumenical Water Network was created to facilitate the sharing of experiences among churches and ecumenical actors and promote the Right to Water. Discussions are being held at the UN, after a study was requested by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights on the Right to Water and Sanitation and in the next Session a resolution proposed by Spain and Germany to have the Special Rapporteur on Water will be discussed. The EWN has recently organized at the Human Rights Council (HRC) a side event to respond to the Study on Water and Sanitation presented at the HRC. Lobby lunches are held monthly in Geneva with NGOs and governments to discuss these issues.

What else can we do? We need to further develop instruments to be used by agencies, churches, to document violations and strengthen advocacy work.

A major conference was organized by the EWN this year in Uganda, and another one is planned to take place next year in Lesotho.

Mr. Gaim Kebreab started by quoting Millennium Development Goal 7: "Ensure environmental sustainability" in relation to Water and Sanitation. The goal would mean to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water (1.1. billion) and safe sanitation (2.6 billion).

How do we achieve this?

- *Education, awareness building.* We need to create awareness in our communities that issues of water and sanitation are a matter of life and death. We need to take into account and address cultural issues.
- *Mobilizing our people.* E.g. in relationships to privatization. Churches are better placed to mobilize people to react when privatization prevent the access to water.
- *Rainwater harvesting.* We need to learn for instance, from the government of Brazil, who, together with private banks have invested one billion Reais (aprox. 600 million USD) for rainwater harvesting in the North East of Brazil. We can collect water which comes from the sky.

We need to be aware that, at present, one third of the world's population lives in areas with scarcity of water. In 2025, with the present consumption rates this will be 2/3 of the population. Conflicts over water are intensifying within countries, with the rural poor losing out. The potential for tensions between countries is also growing.

What should be the Policy Priorities?

- Strengthen the preparedness in emergencies
- Enhance local resources and capacities
- Develop a long-term intervention as a basis for long-term development, food, health, education, ecosystem, peace
- Be prepared to address conflicts and implement conflict resolution strategies
- Increase advocacy work

NCA water and sanitation strategies

- Work towards having micro level access to safe water and sanitation as a national priority in the countries
- Focus on rural and slum population
- Intervention based on partners' own work
- Combine intervention at the micro level with advocacy at the macro level.

Emergency water supply and sanitation program

- Water supply installation and sanitation latrines in refugee camps.
- Hygiene education
- Reconstruction of water supply infrastructure after earthquakes
- Cleaning and purification of wells after flooding or littering
- Construction of wells for domestic use or irrigation
- Training of local partner organizations

In summary, Mr. Kebreab said, people need to struggle for their rights, including right to water and sanitation. This requires mobilization where churches can play a key role. Networking, as in the Ecumenical Water Network, is crucial to achieve the goals.

Advocacy Tools and “Women at the Well”

Speakers: Ms. Lynne West

Researcher
Church World Service



Photo: T. Abraham/ CWS

Ms. West closed the session referring to the Women at the Well as an example of a campaign developed by CWS on universal access to water. Copies of The Woman at the Well were distributed to participants by Ms. West.

“Woman at the Well” is an example of how the CWS Education and Advocacy (E&A) Program works with partners to develop resources for education and advocacy. When CWS E&A sought ideas to promote its advocacy for universal access to water, it looked to the West Bank Water Cistern Program and the CWS partnership with the Middle East Council of Churches’ Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR). The “Woman at the Well,” an olive-wood ornament, was the outcome of a series of email exchanges between CWS and the DSPR. E&A ordered 3,000 ornaments to support its advocacy for universal access to water.

In addition to providing information about the Cistern Program and the CWS partnership with the DSPR, the card, which is attached to the ornament, provides information on water shortages in other countries and what people can do to protect everyone’s access to safe, affordable water.

Part D: Greater Horn of Africa

31 October 2007

Session Organizers: Ms. Mia Adjali

World Federation of United Methodist and Uniting Church Women

Ms. Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa

Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the United Nations
Anglican U.N. Observer Office

Note taker: Mr. Paul Ronan
Advocacy Assistant
Caritas Internationalis

The session time was committed to outlining some of the major issues facing the region, with particular attention to the continued conflict over resources, the impact of natural disasters and climate change, migration, and displacement of peoples due to conflict. Considering the power relationships that exacerbate these problems within the framework presented, the group considered the challenges, difficulties and urgency in the creation of a regional analysis with forthcoming advocacy strategies and methodology for future collaboration around the issue.

Broadening Perspectives

Moderator: Ms. Mia Adjali
World Federation of United Methodist and Uniting Church Women

Speakers: Sir. John Holmes
Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
United Nations

Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik
Former Special Humanitarian Envoy of the Secretary General for the Horn of Africa
United Nations

Mrs. Alice Mungwa
Senior Political Advisor
African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations

Sir John Holmes outlined three primary challenges to humanitarian work in Africa and the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA): natural disasters, human-made disasters and provision of humanitarian aid. He noted that an increase in extreme weather events and increased vulnerability of urban migrants and the poor, related to climate change's disproportionate effect on Africa, was straining humanitarian resources. He noted that many contemporary conflicts are internal, creating vulnerable IDP populations and armed groups with little respect for humanitarian space and access. Sir John also commented on the shift to a cluster approach to humanitarian aid provision, boosting pooled funds such as UNOCHA's CERF, and strengthening partnerships between the UN, governments and NGOs. He then outlined humanitarian challenges in Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia and Darfur.



Mr. Bondevik discussed political obstacles to peace processes and humanitarian work in the Greater Horn of Africa, focusing on how faith-based groups can help overcome them. He noted the importance of "transitional investment" for marginalized groups to fill the gap between emergency aid and long-term development, and the ability of faith-based groups to fill that gap with their extensive grassroots network. He urged greater attention to the role of peacekeepers, proxy groups, and the regional dimension of GHA conflicts. Rev. Bondevik outlined four ways that faith-based groups can play a role in the GHA; increased

role in peace processes and development, partnership with UN actors, addressing the proliferation of small arms, and promoting solutions to water scarcity and access.

Mrs. Mungwa discussed the peace and security architecture within the African Union and outlined specific needs for increased collaboration between the AU and international community, especially the UN. She expressed concern that peacekeeping not become a long-term focus of the AU, but that more attention be paid to political solutions, conflict prevention and development. She noted that some AU structures such as Early Warning Mechanisms, the Panel of the Wise and peacekeeping efforts needed increased buy-in and support from the international community. She also expressed the need for the strengthening of existing mechanisms for the AU to collaborate with faith-based groups.

Presenting Critical Analysis

Moderator: Ms. Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa
Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the United Nations
Anglican U.N. Observer Office

Speaker: Ambassador James Oporia-Ekwaro
Former Ambassador of Uganda
Lecturer at University College of London

Ambassador Oporia-Ekwaro's presentation sought to deepen the dialogue to include critiques of dominant and Western paradigms of thought and interpretation of African experiences. He critiqued these dominant paradigms and their prescriptions, including the need for nation building in failed states and assumption that civil society is good and non-state actors are negative. He highlighted the different scales at which political forces work at Africa, from that of hegemons (USA) and counter-hegemons (India and China) to the AU and Inter-Governmental Authority on Development to the scale of civil society and social movements. He also highlighted political Islam, "new wars" in which civilians are targeted and the use of armed proxies as forces to be reckoned with. He urged WCC members to align with social movements of agents of changing status quo.

KEY HORN OF AFRICA DEBATES: Since independence

- i. The Islamist project in Horn of Africa
- ii. The National Question: Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan
- iii. From New wars (post- cold war) to US proxy wars(WaT) e.g Somalia-Ethiopia and others
- iv. Super power Hegemonism(USA-post-cold war) counter Hegemons; and the Horn of Africa

CONCLUSIONS: Main questions of regional Importance and the future of the Horn of Africa

- i. Contradictions and the limitations to US hegemonism
- ii. Exhaustion of the National Liberation Project (NLP): what lessons?
- iii. Exhaustion of the communist project: lessons drawn from Eritrea and the Sudan
- iv. Crisis of the Horn of Africa: Intellectuals
- v. The social movement: what prospects?

Deepening the Discussion

Moderator: Rev. Chris Ferguson
Representative to the United Nations
World Council of Churches

Speakers: Mr. Melaku Kifle

Representative to the African Union
All Africa Conference of Churches

Ms. Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa
Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the United Nations
Anglican U.N. Observer Office

Mrs. Mbari Kioni
Acting Director, Advocacy, Research and Communications
All African Conference of Churches

Mr. Kifle's presentation focused on ways in which the ecumenical and faith-based movement can spark progress on addressing peace, security and development issues in the GHA. He noted that the AU has the best mechanisms to address the region's challenges, but highlighted the problems lack of adequate funding and staffing pose to its work. He noted the ecumenical movement's capacity to lobby governments and institutions such as the UN and AU to address regional issues. He pointed out that Sudan and DR Congo are crucial to achieving stability and peace throughout the continent. Mr. Kifle also urged that African problems be discussed and addressed within their context in Africa.

Mrs. Kioni discussed the work of the All Africa Council of Churches and the ecumenical movement in promoting peace in the GHA. She emphasized that faith-based groups have a prophetic voice and are a beacon of hope. She noted that they are often on the forefront of advocacy initiatives to address challenges in the region. She discussed the work of WCC to facilitate meetings between Muslims and Christians as part of peace initiatives in the GHA. She also noted the work for faith-based organizations to promote good governance and also to support civic and education programs for electoral processes. Mrs. Kioni also noted initiatives concerning women's issues and a position paper written to coincide with the upcoming Bali conference on climate change.



Mrs. Akwii-Wangusa discussed ecumenical and faith-based advocacy, including ways to strengthen the work of ecumenical and faith-based groups. She highlighted the need for structured, accessible information and research to inform advocacy, including accessible notes from the 2007 WCC UN Advocacy Week. She also called for greater attention to and promotion of the theological foundation for political theory and principles that shape advocacy, referencing earlier discussions on hegemony and other examples. She also noted the need for ecumenical partners to build their own capacity to be effective advocates. She highlighted the need for effective partnerships with UN agencies in the GHA. Finally, she noted the importance of placing understanding of and advocacy regarding the GHA into the wider context of Africa as a whole.

Session III: Engaging as One: Ecumenical advocacy in action

One of the goals of the United Nations Advocacy Week (UNAW) was to provide opportunities for participants to undertake advocacy with Permanent Missions of Member States at the United Nations. This emphasis on advocacy with Member States was a new initiative for the UNAW.

The Greater Horn of Africa was chosen as the thematic emphasis for advocacy with Member States. Because the nature of the situation in the Greater Horn is generally discussed as a peace and security issue, it is most often dealt with in the UN Security Council (UNSC).¹³ Therefore, the ecumenical advocacy on this issue was focused in order to interact with members of the UNSC.

Requests for meetings were sent to the five permanent members of the UNSC (China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) as well as the ten non-permanent members (Belgium, Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Slovakia and South Africa). Meetings were granted with representatives of the following Member States: Ghana, Slovakia, USA, Italy, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The representatives ranged from the ambassador to first counselors to experts on the Greater Horn of Africa.

A meeting was also held with Germany. Although Germany was not a current member of the Security Council, the government recently turned over the Presidency of the EU and could therefore brief the ecumenical delegation from this perspective. In addition, as a member of the G-8, Germany has a key role in the UN context.

The following pages contain highlights from the issues discussed at each Mission visit as well as the list of the people involved in the ecumenical delegations that attended the meetings.

Prior to the visits with members of the UNSC and after the discussions about the Greater Horn of Africa, the session organizers and experts on the Horn worked with the participants to develop talking points – an ‘advocacy ask’ to bring forward at each of the Missions.



Left to right: Hellen Wangusa, Joy Kennedy, Rev. Elenora Giddings-Ivory and Suzanne Matala share advocacy experiences prior to Mission visits. Photo: M. Neuroth/ CWS

This ‘advocacy ask’ emphasized the need for a regional approach in working for a solution to problems in the region. This emphasis is supported by UN documents, including the UN Charter¹⁴ and Security Council Resolution 1574,¹⁵ which was passed in 2004.

The highlights from the discussions with experts on the Greater Horn of Africa included the following points:

¹³ More information about the UNSC can be found at: www.un.org/docs/sc

¹⁴ UN Charter Article 33 (Chapter VI) which states that “the parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiations, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.”

UN Charter Article 52 (Chapter VII) which states that “Nothing in the present Charter preclude the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action, provided that such arrangements or agencies and their activities are consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

¹⁵ Security Council Resolution 1574 can be accessed at: www.un.org/Docs/sc/unscl_resolutions04.html

- We place emphasis on the importance of a coordinated humanitarian and political response to crisis situations. The humanitarian response should be timely and sustained. There should be an adequately funded, staffed and equipped human response.
- We encourage the review of the relationships in international responses, including the UN the African Union (AU), and regional responses, and we place emphasis on the review of the mandates of the UN and the AU in relationship to coordinated responses to crisis situations.
- We stress the importance of protecting and defending the dignity of civilians, especially the elderly, women and children in crisis situations.
- We highlight the importance of an inclusive interfaith approach.
- We consider rape of women as a weapon of war and urge all parties involved to put a stop to this.
- On Somalia, we support the implementation of the AU initiative of the peacekeeping troops to replace the Ethiopian troops and to prepare for a political process.
- On Ethiopia and Eritrea, we urge for the enforcement of UN Resolution 1312, in relation to the settling of the border dispute.
- On Sudan, we are concerned for all of the people in the Sudan, and we are particularly worried about the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

In light of these concerns, the session organizers and experts on the Horn worked with the participants to develop the 'advocacy ask'. This 'advocacy ask' included the following questions:

Q1. *How can the UN Security Council improve their collaboration with regional partners in addressing crisis situations? How can efficient and reliable relationships be strengthened with the AU? How can the support for the coordination of the AU be assured?*

Q2. *What is preventing coordination of humanitarian support for the military troops already on the ground, for example, in Darfur?*

Q3. *How does the Security Council ensure the protection of humanitarian aid workers from ensuring safe delivery of humanitarian support on the ground?*

Q4. *We understand that the United Nations is working for better coordination. We stress the importance of better coordination with all UN efforts in areas of conflict. How can the UN Security Council work more closely with OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF etc to broaden its information base for more effective responses to crisis situations?*

Q5. *What role does the Security Council see the churches and civil society playing in pre-empting conflict and sustaining peace?*

Mission: Germany

1 November, 11 AM

Meeting with: Jan Hendrik van Thiel, First Secretary Political Affairs, (Sub Saharan Africa), Achim Fabig, First Secretary Political Affairs (Middle East) and Bernd Heinze, Counselor (Disarmament, Iran)

Location: Permanent Mission of Germany

Note taker: Mr. Christian Albers

Highlights:

As part of the EU the German government welcomes the collaboration of AU und UN and is interested in even stronger collaboration. A strengthening of the role of the AU is desired not only in Germany but also by the UN in general.

The need for troops with logistical support in the region was discussed. Additionally, human rights and development were discussed in the context of human security.

In terms of the role of the churches in the Greater Horn of Africa, it was noted that churches have invaluable connections on the ground and the governments cannot reach out to society in the same way.

Country	Title	Name	Surname	Organization
Germany	Mr.	Christian	Albers *	ELCA/ Lutheran World Federation
Germany	Mr.	Bob	Hedley	Diakonisches Werk der EKD
Germany	Rev. Dr.	Jochen	Motte	United Evangelical Mission
Germany	Mr.	Wilfried	Steen	Church Development Service
Germany	Mr.	Michael	Windfuhr	Diakonisches Werk der EKD
USA	Mr.	Jonathan	Frerichs	World Council of Churches

Mission: Ghana

1 November, 3 PM

Meeting with: H.E. Mr. Leslie Kojo Christian**Location:** Indonesian Lounge, United Nations Secretariat

Because this meeting was scheduled by the Mission of Ghana inside of the United Nations where only people with official groundspasses can enter, the ecumenical delegation was limited to persons with UN badges. In any case, the Ambassador was unfortunately called away to a meeting at the last minute and was unable to make this scheduled appointment with the ecumenical delegation.

Country	Title	First Name	Surname	Organization
Canada	Rev.	Christopher	Ferguson	World Council of Churches
South Korea	Rev.	Nam Duk	Hwang	World Council of Churches
USA	Mr.	Joel	Hanisek	Presbyterian Church USA
USA	Mr.	Michael	Neuroth	Church World Service

Mission: Slovakia

1 November, 3:30 PM

Meeting with: Mr. Norbert Brada, expert on the Horn of Africa

Location: Permanent Mission of Slovakia

Head of delegation: Bishop Pie Ntukamazine and Mr. Dennis Frado

Note takers: Ms. Alexandra Buck and Mr. Dennis Frado

Highlights:

The discussions included peacekeeping forces, with particular emphasis on the use of a hybrid force and collaboration. Safety was discussed as an issue in regard to humanitarian aid, peace talks and mutual security. It was noted that cooperation between peacekeeping troops and humanitarian aid is important.

In terms of the role of the churches in the Greater Horn of Africa, it was noted that churches have invaluable connections on the ground and they can inform members of the Security Council of the situation. The group discussed how civil society, especially churches, can play a crucial role pointing out and speaking against violations of human rights and keeping hope alive on complex issues. It was noted that civil society helps to work for accountability of involved parties, confirming that there must be justice at the end of the crises and defeating cultures of impunity.

The group ended the meeting with gracious thanks and a group prayer.

Country	Title	First Name	Surname	Organization
Burundi	Bishop	Pie	Ntukamazina	Anglican Church of Burundi
Canada	Mr.	John	Siebert	Project Ploughshares
Kenya	Mrs.	Mbari	Kioni	All Africa Conference of Churches
Lesotho	Mrs.	Catherine M	Ramokhele	Christian Council of Lesotho
Malawi	Pastor	Canaan R.K.	Phiri	Malawi Council of Churches
Norway	Mr.	Gaim	Kebreab	Norwegian Church Aid
Uganda	Ms.	Susan	Ndibalekera Lubega	Uganda Joint Christian Council
Uganda	Ms.	Hellen Grace	Akwii-Wangusa	Anglican Observer Office
USA	Mr.	Dennis	Frado	ELCA/ Lutheran World Federation
USA	Ms.	Alexandra	Buck	Presbyterian Church USA
Zimbabwe	Dr. Rev.	Shirley C.	deWolf	Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Mission: United States of America

1 November, 4:30 PM

Meeting with: Ambassador H.E. Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad, Ms. Peggy Kerry, Ms. Patsy Agee

Location: Permanent Mission of the United States of America

Head of delegation: Mr. Melaku Kifle and Rev. Christopher Ferguson

Note taker: Ms. Seta Hadesian

Highlights:

In order to achieve peace and security in the region, the relationship with the African Union and the Security Council should be strengthened. The UN is present to monitor situations, but they also need support of more peace keepings troops. There is a need to mobilize political will in order to ensure these troops and therefore the protection of humanitarian aid.

There are things that UN can do as institution, but there are only fifteen members of the Security Council, five of whom have the veto power. The group discussed how it might be helpful to improve collaboration with UN agents in particular countries.

Country	Title	First Name	Surname	Organization
Argentina	Lic.	Juan Abelardo	Schvindt	Iglesia Evangélica del Río de la Plata
Brazil	Ms.	Roseangela	Oliveira	United Methodists
Canada	Rev.	Christopher	Ferguson	World Council of Churches
Ethiopia	Mr.	Melaku	Kifle	All Africa Conference of Churches
Finland	Ms.	Nina	Suomalainen	FinnChurchAid
Guatemala	Rev.	Vitalino	Similox	Foro Ecueménico por la Paz y la Reconciliación
Haiti	Rev.	Sylvain	Exantus	Protestant Federation of Haiti
Indonesia	Rev. Dr.	Richard	Daulay	Communion of Churches in Indonesia
Lebanon	Mr.	Michel	Nseir	World Council of Churches
Lebanon	Madame	Seta	Hadesian	Middle East Council of Churches
Malaysia	Rev. Dr.	Hermen	Shastri	Council of Churches of Malaysia
Norway	Dr.	Gard	Lindseth	Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Affairs
Pakistan	Mr.	Victor	Azariah	National Council of Churches in Pakistan
Palestine	Mr.	Wassim H.	Khazmo	Negotiations Support Unit
South Korea	Rev. Dr.	Sooil	Chai	National Council of Churches in Korea
Sri Lanka	Rev. Dr.	Jayasiri	Peris	National Council of Churches in Sri Lanka
Tanzania	Bishop Dr	Israel Peter	Mwakyolile	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
United States	Mr.	Jonathan	Frerichs	World Council of Churches
United States	Rev. Dr.	Angelique	Walker-Smith	National Baptist Convention USA
United States	Rev.	Elenora	Giddings Ivory	World Council of Churches
United States	Ms.	Christina	Desvaux	Presbyterian Church USA

Mission: Italy

1 November, 5:00 PM

Meeting with: Mr. Antonio Alessandro, First Counsellor (expert on Horn of Africa)

Location: Permanent Mission Italy

Head of delegation: Bishop Pie Ntukamazina and Ms. Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa

Note taker: Ms. Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa and Ms. Joy Kennedy

Highlights:

The AU is key to the long-term change needed. It is relevant, prominent, taking the lead in the correct way. Regarding the conflict in the Horn of Africa, the lack of means and capacity of the AU is especially evident in Somalia, where it is most dangerous for peacekeepers. There is big crisis is between Ethiopia and Eritrea. There seems to be a trend in the direction of war and no one seems to be able to stop it. So far no major initiatives have been taken. The group discussed how it is important need UN peacekeeping and civil society to be working together on the ground.

The effectiveness of humanitarian aid is often impaired by governments, by bureaucratic procedures, etc. In theory, the SC's responsibility is to ensure peace and security in the area and, ideally, aid should be delivered to the people. Opening the corridors for humanitarian corridors for aid to be delivered can sometimes be interpreted as taking sides as biased with one of the side of the conflicting parties. Suspicion of intention can prevent governments from accepting aid.

In Africa churches are growing very fast. People believe more in churches than in governments, and they can be very influential and raise issues on good governance, use it to promote use of dialogue to resolve conflicts.

The group joined each other in prayer.

Country	Title	First Name	Surname	Organization
Burundi	Bishop	Pie	Ntukamazina	Anglican Church of Burundi
Finland	Ms.	Kirsi	Saloranta	FinnChurchAid
Ghana	Rev. Dr.	Fred	Deegbe	Christian Council of Ghana
India	Dr.	C. I.	Jolly	Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church
Kenya	Mrs.	Mbari	Kioni	All Africa Conference of Churches
Lesotho	Mrs.	Catherine	Ramokhele	Christian Council of Lesotho
Uganda	Ms.	Susan	Ndibalekera Lubega	Uganda Joint Christian Council
Uganda	Ms.	Hellen Grace	Akwii- Wangusa	Anglican Observer Office
Zimbabwe	Dr. Rev.	Shirley C.	deWolf	Commission of the Churches on International Affairs
Canada	Ms.	Joy	Kennedy	The United Church of Canada

Mission: France

1 November, 5:30 PM

Meeting with: Clement Leclerc, First Secretary

Location: Church Center for the United Nations

Head of delegation: Ms. Mia Adjali

Note taker: Ms. Mia Adjali

Highlights:

The UN relies more and more on the information and knowledge of regional organizations. The Security Council is working closer with the peace and security commission of the AU. The Security Council cannot pressure the international community to support the AU.

There are 30,000 humanitarian aid workers in Darfur. The obstacle is the violence that they face. In addition to that, there are many bureaucratic impediments. A recent resolution suggested a hybrid force solution. In Darfur, an obstacle is that they are landlocked. It is a dangerous environment because there is no peace.

Check for resolution on humanitarian workers. Some humanitarian workers don't want to be seen with peace keepers because they want to be seen as 'impartial'.

The Security Council relies on the reports of OCHA and sometimes gets to hear about concerns such as Darfur. Now there is the concept of an integrated UN Office.

Country	Title	First Name	Surname	Organization
Argentina	Lic.	Juan Abelardo	Schvindt	Iglesia Evangélica del Río de la Plata
Ethiopia	Mr.	Melaku	Kifle	All Africa Conference of Churches
Finland	Mr.	Heikki	Huttunen	Finnish Ecumenical Council
Ghana	Rev.	Fred	Deegbe	Christian Council of Ghana
Greece	Ms.	Christina	Papazoglou	World Council of Churches
Guatemala	Rev.	Vitalino	Similox	Foro Ecuémico por la Paz y la Reconciliación
Haiti	Rev.	Sylvain	Exantus	Protestant Federation of Haiti
India	Dr.	C. I.	Jolly	Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church
Malawi	Pastor	Canaan	Phiri	Malawi Council of Churches
Norway	Mr.	Gaim	Kebreab	Norwegian Church Aid
Norway	Ms.	Mia	Adjali	World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women
South Korea	Rev.	Nam Duk	Hwang	World Council of Churches
Sweden	Mrs.	Erika	Brundin	Church of Sweden
Uganda	Rev.	Canon G.	CI Kaiso	Uganda Joint Christian Council
United Kingdom	Ms.	Anthea	Cox	The Methodist Church of Great Britain
United Kingdom	Rev	Graham	Sparkes	Baptist Union of Great Britain
United Kingdom	Ms.	Sally	Golding	Christian Aid
USA	Mr.	Joel	Hanisek	Presbyterian Church USA
Zambia	Rev.	Suzanne	Matale	Council of Churches in Zambia

Mission: United Kingdom

2 November, 12:00 PM

Meeting with: Justin McKenzie Smith – First Secretary (UNSC Africa; press); David Whinerary – UNSC Africa Advisor; Lt Col Nick Slinger – Deputy Military Advisor/Security; Apologies from the UK Ambassador as he was in the UK being knighted by the Queen

Location: Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom

Head of delegation: Mr. Melaku Kifle, Ms. Mia Adjali

Note taker: Ms. Sally Golding

Highlights:

The group discussed the advantage of the hybrid force. Concerning the number of troops there are major capacity issues – for example, in effect 10,000 troops meant 20,000 required as they would be on six month rotation. There is a target for a stand-by Africa force by 2010 which developed countries are trying to support financially & logistically.

The relationship between the UNSC and the AU is a work in progress. The UN Secretary General is writing a report on how it can be strengthened. Logistical support is also very difficult to provide; there are technical difficulties and no one wants to set up the UN for failure.

The discussion noted that they see the role of civil society as integral to the work of the UNSC. Civil society is a valuable source of information as they have more direct access and local networks. Additionally, civil society can lay important role at pushing things onto the agenda. For example, in 2004, Darfur wasn't on the UNSC agenda, but because of the constant stream of first hand evidence from civil society it was brought to the attention of the council.

Civil society has a role in influencing member state positions at the UNSC. Elected UNSC colleagues use NGOs and civil society as primary sources of information (as opposed to permanent members who have more formal sources of info as are far better resourced with bigger missions).

Country	Title	First Name	Surname	Organization
Ethiopia	Mr.	Melaku	Kifle	All Africa Conference of Churches
Norway	Ms.	Mia	Adjali	World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women
Uganda	Ambassador	James	Oporia-Ekwaro	former Ambassador of Uganda, lecturer at University College of London
United Kingdom	Ms.	Anthea	Cox	The Methodist Church of Great Britain
United Kingdom	Rev	Graham	Sparkes	Baptist Union of Great Britain
United Kingdom	Ms.	Sally	Golding	Christian Aid

Session IV: Going Forward

The opportunity to conduct advocacy with Member States provided the impetus for much of the discussion during this closing session. As the advocacy portion of the week was a new initiative for UNAW, it was clear that the participants present for the discussion were in agreement that it was an effective mechanism, though there was room for improvement.

The group maintained the position that creating a global, ecumenical advocacy network would be helpful. Because advocacy with Member States at the UN in New York is more effective when it is complimented by advocacy in national capitals, the work in both arenas would be mutually reinforcing if there was a mechanism or means to coordinate the advocacy work of the churches at both the national and international levels.

As a first step in this process, the group agreed that the 2007 UNAW was “one step in the right direction,” especially with regard to relationship and network building. In this session, participants were asked to submit names and contact information of persons in their organizations who would benefit from information and connections through UNAW. There was an agreement that the World Council of Churches United Nations Liaison Office (UNLO) would share the final report with these persons and add their names to the database.

As the next step in the process, the group agreed that better communication would be helpful, and that this communication should flow between the UNLO and participants and vice-versa. With this in mind, the UNLO and participants agreed to a minimum of three moments of communication. They are as follows:

- 3 months – at this time, the UNLO agreed to send out the final report of the 2007 UNAW to all participants. This report would include the advocacy asks for participants to take forward within their churches or agencies.
- 6 months – at this time, the participants agreed to send to UNLO the responses from within their own organizations about engaging with the issues discussed at UNAW. For example, if their church joined the Ecumenical Water Network or the Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum, they would share this with the UNLO.
- 6 months – at this time, the UNLO agreed to distribute information about the 2008 UNAW.
- 9 months – at this time, the UNLO agreed to share the reporting from participants on the progress made within their churches or agencies on the themes of UNAW 2007.

Advocacy Asks

Part A. Palestine – Israel

Share the WCC initiative of the Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum as well as the Amman Call.¹⁶ This should be shared as widely as possible; possible entry points might be:

- Governing bodies of Churches;
- Ecumenical Regional Bodies; or
- Specialized Ministries and Church Agencies

On the *peace-building* track, participants can involve constituencies in the WCC process of producing a handbook for pastors and priests on the theological and biblical issues related to the conflict. In terms of advocacy, participants can encourage constituencies to join the ICAPI (International Church Action/Advocacy for Israel and Palestine).

On the *peace-making* track, participants can engage in discussion on ethical and morally responsible investments.

With regard to the WCC UN liaison office, national and local churches, regional ecumenical bodies can bring common voices and messages to UN agencies and bodies. Additionally, information and analysis the UN can be relayed by the WCC UN office and shared widely with different constituencies.

Part B. Nuclear Disarmament

The theme of nuclear disarmament was framed by the need to 'revitalize the will to disarm' and for church representatives to jointly develop global-local approaches in this field of advocacy. At the end of the week participants were requested to do three things:

1. Sign up to collaborate in ecumenical advocacy for nuclear arms control.

Each received a sign-up sheet to do so personally or by nominating a qualified colleague or church member. Also, to indicate church leaders who are interested. (To date, 24 have been filled out and returned. More are welcome. The next two items were given examples of what people are signing up for.)

2. Strategize and strengthen international church advocacy work with the diplomatic community.

The first pillar of WCC nuclear advocacy strategy is diplomatic and international. Ecumenical advocates are needed for the work. This means people with the capacity to form WCC policy and to see it applied to the NPT and other treaties, to NPT meetings, the UN First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament.

3. Take responsibility for coordinated national, political work on the issue.

The second pillar, joined to the first, is influencing policy with political pressure in national capitols. The goal is for governments to hear a consistent message from the churches at both the national and international levels. For that, there must be coordination through the WCC with international ecumenical advocacy plans so that there is synergy between what churches are asking governments in capitols and at international and UN meetings.

BACKGROUND

As background for action, participants were invited to consider the status and location of their church and nation under the NPT regime. Most churches live in the 184 countries that have signed the NPT as non-

¹⁶ The Amman Call can be found at www.oikoumene.org/?id=3748

nuclear-weapon states. Others live in the five legitimate nuclear-weapon states allowed by the treaty. Still others live in the four non-signatory states, including Israel, India and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, some of the countries that had nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons programs during the Cold War have renounced the weapons and programs. However, some that in the past have never sought nuclear weapons or had a program are considering whether to do so now, because they feel that the protection afforded to them by the NPT has been reduced. The treaty has been weakened by some states not complying with its disarmament and non-proliferation provisions, actions which call the bargain behind the treaty into question.

Finally there is a geographic context for advocacy against nuclear arms. Some churches live in regions that have established Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones; others live in regions slated to become Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. Some are part of cities declared to be nuclear weapon free by the Mayors for Peace initiative. These and many other factors help shape the advocacy work that church representatives -- like those at the UN Advocacy Week -- are invited to develop and pursue.

Part C. Water

1. Water and development

Organizers generally would encourage people to use the new energy around Climate Change as an opportunity to raise awareness on water. Further to that, Church World Service's Water for All campaign suggests that churches advocate for the following:

- Enable access to, and provision of, potable water through local and global partnerships;
- Support community-based water projects and building local community capacity to inform national water and sanitation policies;
- Build a collective ecumenical voice in global public debate on water and sanitation issues;
- Advocate for access to, and provision of, water as critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and
- Build grassroots support for legislation that supports universal access to water worldwide.

2. Ecumenical Water Network

Both locally and internationally there are positive and creative responses working to raise the profile of Christian witness for water issues. Participants were encouraged to join the Ecumenical Water Network (EWN). The EWN was formed by Christian agencies and movements to:

- make a Christian witness heard in the present debate on water issues,
- raise awareness of the churches on the urgency of the concern,
- engage as an ecumenical community in common action at all levels, with the aim to promote the preservation, responsible management and the equitable distribution of water for all, based on the understanding that water is a Gift of God and a fundamental human right.

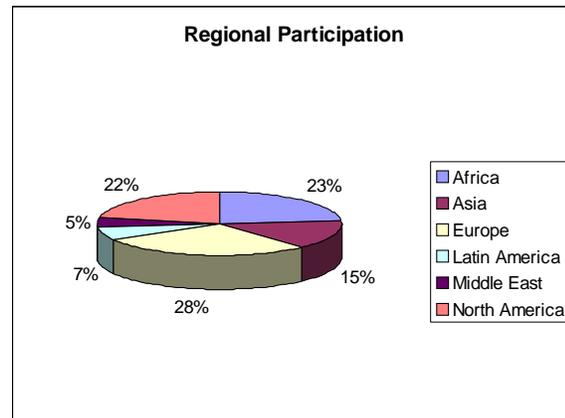
As far as human society is concerned, the starting point of the Ecumenical Water Network is that the access to water is a fundamental human right. It is a matter of justice and of social and political sustainability for any society, which must be ordered in such a way that all people can benefit from the gift of water. This requires:

- the establishment of the right to water for all people in a binding manner,
- the guarantee of the right to water for coming generations,
- the protection of local and national water rights of indigenous peoples under international law, and
- the guarantee of women's water-related rights as human rights.

Participants

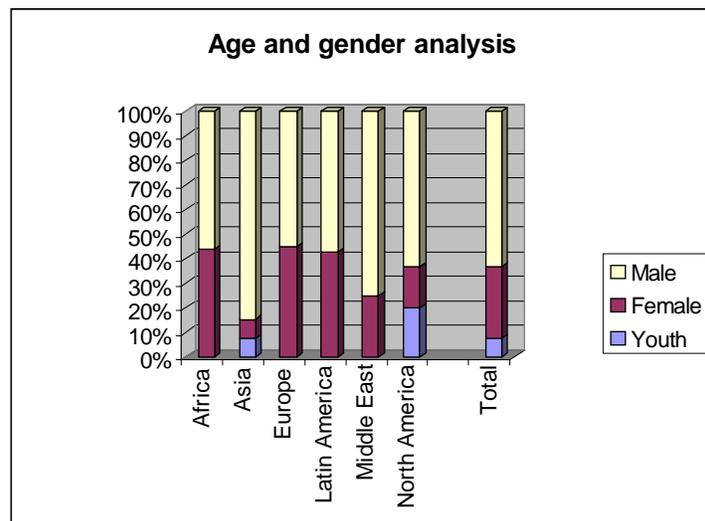
The pie chart below shows the broad regional representation of people who attended the meeting. ¹⁷ United Nations Advocacy Week (UNAW) 2007 featured 90 participants from 45 countries, representing diverse constituencies of churches, church agencies and regional ecumenical organizations.

The UNAW had greater participation from various regions than ever before in the past. In previous advocacy weeks, there was feedback that the participants were mostly from North America and Europe. During the preparatory process for the UNAW 2007, the World Council of Churches (WCC) requested that ecumenical planning partners as well as in-house regional desks provide names of advocacy partners from the regions in order to ensure that invitations were more diverse.



The WCC also worked to ensure that invitations for the UNAW went out early enough to provide greater opportunity for participants from the global South to attain visas. In addition to this, the WCC designated specific funds to bring partners from the South to the UNAW; 75% of the funds allocated for UNAW were designated to bring partners from the South.

The pre-planning group worked to ensure greater participation of youth (ages 18-25) during the week of meetings. Despite attempts to gather names through various youth desks and invitations to student group partners, there was a very low representation of youth, who were mainly represented through the interns at various ecumenical offices in New York.



Although stronger than in past years, the graph at the left demonstrates the weak representation of women and youth in all of the regions during the 2007 session.

¹⁷ This data does not include the numbers of the regional representation of staff members. If included, the percentages would be the following: Africa 18%; Asia 14%; Europe 23%; Latin America 8%; Middle East 4%; and North America 33%.

Evaluation

The goals of UNAW 2007 were to provide an opportunity for participants to learn from the experience of the Churches and NGO representatives working daily with advocacy at the UN; provide opportunities to dialogue about issues; and create opportunities to do advocacy with Permanent Missions of Member States at the United Nations. When asked whether the UNAW met these stated goals, all participants who returned the evaluation answered positively. One participant noted that the visits to Missions were a successful way to translate theory into practice.

Participants noted that there was a good mix of well-informed speakers; they also expressed appreciation for the UN speakers who were available. A few participants noted that the topics chosen were good. In terms of the format of the program, there were positive remarks about the program on Thursday and Friday as participants appreciated the opportunity to get a bigger overview and digest the issues. One participant noted that the meeting was a “good model for ecumenical fellowship and advocacy.” while another participant noted that the “spirit of the meeting was positive, and I sensed that most people enjoyed it.”

There were many remarks that there were too many speakers in the program, with much of the program being taken up by presentations leaving little time for discussions. There was a suggestion for an addition session on what the WCC’s advocacy is guided by and with which tools the WCC uses for advocacy, as well as which tools work and succeed in advocacy.

Logistically, it would have been helpful to have more information before the meeting. Additionally, the acoustics in the room were not good, the microphone was not great and it might have been helpful to have a roving microphone, especially for question and answer periods.

A few participants thought that interfaith input might be helpful. It may have been helpful to have more time for participants to get to know one another, perhaps in optional group time in the evenings.

One participant noted that the presence of the younger generation’s presence was lacking and that it would be good to bring in new leaders by using these opportunities as training/ inspirational opportunities.

Generally, participants agreed that the worship services were a good opportunity to settle minds and hearts, and that the sessions were very ecumenical, helpful and to the point. Appreciation was noted for the worship reflecting the themes of the week. There was a suggestion for more music.