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World Food Summit Highlights Continued Food Crisis

On 16-18 November, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organized a World Food Summit to address the global food insecurity situation that has worsened and continues to represent a serious threat for humanity.

EAA was well represented at the Summit and the Civil Society Forum by ICCO, Bread for All, Bread for the World, CIDSE, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, FEC-CIWA, Tearfund and EED. Ms Carolin Callenius, from Bread for the World and a member of the EAA's Food Strategy Group, coordinated the EAA members at the Summit.

The three-day summit ended after committing the international community to investing more in agriculture and to achieve Millennium Development Goal 1 on eradicating hunger by 2015. However, measurable targets and specific deadlines which would have made it easier to monitor implementation were lacking in the outcomes.

Pope Benedict XVI speaks at the World Food Summit

Pope Benedict XVI addressed leaders at the summit, emphasizing that the right to food has an important place within the pursuit of the universal rights of all human beings, beginning with the fundamental right to life. He called for solidarity with poor countries and involvement of local communities to promote sustainable agricultural development.

Read his full address on: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/rtf/>

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Calendar of Events 2009 - 2010

7 - 18 December 2009:
Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change

8 March 2010:
International Women's Day

8 - 10 March 2010:
EAA Food Consultation

11 - 12 March 2010:
EAA Food Strategy Group Meeting

22 March 2010:
World Day for Water

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The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance is a broad international network of churches and Christian organizations cooperating in advocacy on food and HIV and AIDS. The Alliance is based in Geneva, Switzerland. For more information, see www.e-alliance.ch/

This bulletin is located online
[www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/resources/
bulletins/](http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/resources/bulletins/)

From 2009 - 2012, the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) is focusing on food – in order to overcome hunger and to improve livelihoods in harmony with creation and social justice. EAA members will advocate for:

- Just and sustainable food production, trade and distribution systems
- Just and sustainable consumption
- The realization of the right to food for all people

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EAA advocacy ahead of the summit

In advance of the Summit, many preparations and meetings were done by EAA and its members. CIDSE (<http://www.cidse.org/PressMedia/?id=39>), a member of EAA in collaboration with APRODEV developed a Briefing Paper with recommendations to the EU for the Summit (http://cidse.nvisage.uk.com/uploadedFiles/Publications/Publication_repository/A-CIDSE%20APRODEV%20Recommendation%20FINAL%20280909.pdf). The same recommendations were shared by EAA with the Coordinator of the United Nations High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis, Dr David Nabarro, during the teleconference held on 5 November 2009.

The EAA Food Campaign Coordinator, Angeline Munzara participated in the Food Security Network e-discussion. The results of the online discussion provided input to the background paper of the Summit, in particular by referring to the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) conclusions. The WFS Background paper can be found at: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/WSFS_Issues_papers/WSFS_Feeding_the_World_Eradicating_Hunger.pdf The complete proceedings of this discussion can be downloaded at http://km.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/jfn/docs/PROCEEDINGS_How_to_Feed_the_Worldin_2050.doc

The EAA endorsed the Food Governance and Civil Society Call to support the Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) that was submitted at the Civil Society Forum (14-16 November). The Declaration of the Civil Society Organizations to the WFS can be read at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/rtf/>

In addition, the EAA sent a letter with over 45 signatures collected from both EAA food and HIV/AIDS contacts to the FAO Director calling for the respect of the right to food, just production and consumption of food. The letter and the response from FAO can be read under Recent Events and Actions at: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/>.

Meetings with the United Nations High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis (UNHETF)

A letter sent by the EAA to the United Nations Secretary-General has led to a working relationship with the United Nations High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis (UNHETF). Meetings and advocacy in advance of the World Food Summit focused on sharing information and documents. The next meeting of the HETF will be held on 18 December 2009.

The United Nations Comprehensive Framework of Action is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at (<http://www.un-foodsecurity.org>). You can also read the progress report describing the overall impact of the work undertaken by the High Level Task Force since its establishment.

US Presbyterians Call for Monthly Fasting

The Presbyterian Church (USA), an EAA member, has developed monthly fast materials on the global food crisis and calls upon everyone to act in solidarity to address global food insecurity. Fasting materials up to September 2010 are available on-line at: <http://www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis7archive7index.htm> The conference will take place in Vienna, Austria, 18-23 July 2009.

WTO Ministerial Conference Continues Efforts on Doha Round

The Seventh Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 30 November to 2 December 2009. EAA members including Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA, Lutheran World Federation, Bread for All, Norwegian Church Aid, Church of Sweden and Trocaire attended the conference.

The general theme for discussion at the conference was “The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment”. The main objective was to review the WTO’s activities and discuss its role in aiding recovery from the global economic crisis. There was strong convergence on the importance of trade and the Doha Round to economic recovery and poverty alleviation in developing countries. The development dimension was said to continue to remain central to the Round and that particular attention should be paid to issues of importance to developing countries. Ministers reaffirmed the need to conclude the Round in 2010 and for a stock-taking exercise to take place in the first quarter of next year. Read more on: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/sustainable-production/> and visit <http://www.eed.de/de/de.col/de.col.d/de.sub.20/de.sub.news/index.html> to view EED interviews with the majority of Southern Partners working on WTO trade matters.

The EAA sent a letter with over 46 organizational signatures to Pascal Lamy, WTO Director-General and Ambassador Mario Matus, General Council Chair ahead of the 7th Ministerial Conference calling upon WTO members to respect the right to food as enshrined in human rights instruments. The final letter and response from Pascal Lamy can be viewed at: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/>

Report on confronting the global food challenge launched

A new book, “The Global Food Challenge” was launched in Geneva on 30 November during the WTO Ministerial by the EAA, FoodFirst Information and Action Network (FIAN), and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP). The book draws from the 2008 conference on Confronting the Global Food Challenge to highlight the need for a fundamental reshaping of international trade and investment rules to put human rights, particularly the right to adequate food, at the centre of economic and development policy. Over 35 people attended the side event. For more information please visit: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/sustainable-production/the-rights-approach-to-trade-rules-real-solutions-to-the-global-food-challenge/>

Let the bells ring for climate justice!

The Conference on Climate Change is currently taking place in Copenhagen. Churches all over the world joined together with the churches in Denmark on 13 December by ringing bells for climate justice. Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Caritas Internationalis, DanChurchAid and CIDSE are among EAA members who attended the conference. LWF General Secretary, Rev. Ishmael Noko, called on states participating at Copenhagen to reach a fair, equitable and legally binding agreement to achieve the target of a 40 percent reduction of developed country CO2 emissions by 2020.

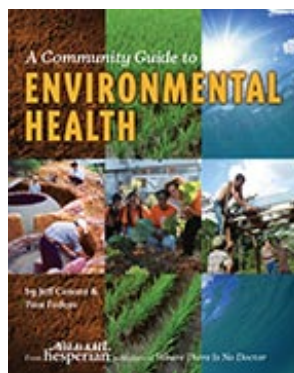
Archbishop Tutu handed over half a million signatures (www.danchurchaid.org/) calling for climate justice to Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Sound recording: <http://bit.ly/DesmondTutuAndYvoDeBoerCOP15>. Worship resources are still available at: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/food-and-climate-change/>

There is no Plan B on Climate Change: Appeal from Pax Christi International

On 10 November 2009, Pax Christi International, a member of EAA issued an interfaith appeal on the occasion of the United Nations’ Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen. The statement called upon political leaders, communities of faith, and all people of good will to acknowledge the common danger we face, accept responsibility for immediate and decisive action, and embrace this opportunity to change. Read the statement at <http://storage.paxchristi.net/2009-0789-en-gl-HS.pdf>

Canadian Foodgrains Update on Food Security and Climate Change

As part of its Food Justice Updates, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank released Food Security and Climate Change. Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a member of EAA calls for a treaty that is fair for all, one that benefits the most vulnerable people in society. Read the full update on: http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/food_justice_updates.aspx



A Community Guide to Environmental Health is available for purchase or free download at www.hesperian.org.

Britain bins £12bn of food and drink every year, report reveals

More than £12bn worth of food and drink that could have been consumed is thrown out every year by householders, according to new figures that reveal the scale of the UK's food waste mountain (The Guardian, Monday, 9 November 2009). The cost of the avoidable food and drink waste is typically £480 per household per year and rising to around £680 a year for families with children.

To read more on the study please visit: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/nov/09/britain-food-drink-waste-figures>

EAA Welcomes New Food Strategy Group Member

The EAA welcomes Andrew Kang Bartlett from the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a new member of the food strategy group, replacing Rev. Dr. Wallace Ryan Kuroiwa from United Church of Christ in the USA who is retiring at the end of December. EAA expresses its deep appreciation to Dr Kuroiwa's hard work and time as a member of the previous trade campaign strategy group and a member of the food strategy group since the beginning of the campaign.

Resources

A Community Guide to Environmental Health

This book contains chapters on community food security, facts about genetically engineered food, health and medical advice in regards to pesticides and sustainable farming methods. It is available for purchase or free download at www.hesperian.org. The book is also available in CD format. To order, email Ingrid Hawkinson at Ingrid@hesperian.org or visit the website. A Spanish translation will be available in spring 2010.

Video on Stop Gambling on Hunger

Learn about market deregulations and its impact on hunger by watching a video from the Association for Latin America and Economic Justice at www.stopgamblingonhunger.com.

7 Weeks of Finding the Divine in Hunger

This new resource complements the Fast for Change: 7 Days of Food for the Soul (http://www.fastforchange.ca/uploads/resource_booklet.pdf). The booklet provides bible studies, prayers, reflection questions and advocacy actions and can be viewed here: <http://www.fastforchange.ca/uploads/F4C-Companion.pdf>.

Sharing Food, Christian Practices for Enjoyment

This book by L. Shannon Jung offers an understanding of how food, feasting and fasting function culturally today and how this figures very practically in Christian lifestyle. 'Sharing Food' will cause readers to be more mindful of how they relate to food as a gift from God. The book sells for \$16 and can be ordered at: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0800637925/ref=nosim/librarytbin08-20>

God, Creation and Climate Change

This resource is part of the Lutheran World Federation's overall strategy on the challenges posed by climate change. View the book at: http://www.lutheranworld.org/What_We_Do/DTS/Programs/DTS-Climate_Change-web.pdf

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The newsletter welcomes news editorials that are promoting sustainable agricultural methods. Sign up to receive your own newsletter on <https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/199/personal2.asp?formid=aaagrtrr>

Rethinking Public Policy in Agriculture: Lessons from History, Distant and Recent

The article discusses the history of a wide range of agricultural policies concerning issues in 11 developed countries. It ends by discussing the policy lessons that may be learned from these historical experiences. The full article can be downloaded for free for a limited period of time: <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g916400439>

For past Action Alerts and Bulletins from the Food Campaign,
see www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/resources/