



Food Campaign Framework for Action 2009-2012

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1 Preamble

1.1 The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), a global network of churches and Christian organizations, seeks to live out faithfully its vision of being effective advocates for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. EAA member organizations have committed themselves to strengthening the churches collective life through:

“..ecumenical advocacy as a specific form of witness on political, economic, cultural and social issues by churches ... which aims to influence policies and practices of governments, international institutions, corporations and our own communities...”¹

The EAA seeks to harness the collective energies of the churches and Christian organizations by focusing their advocacy efforts together in long-term campaigns on two selected priority issues. Since its founding in 2000, the EAA had focused its campaigns on global trade and on HIV and AIDS. At the EAA’s assembly in November 2008, delegates determined that a new campaign on food should be taken up for the next four years, replacing trade as a priority issue. The other priority issue until 2012 will continue to be HIV and AIDS.

The EAA understands advocacy to encompass three different forms which often overlap:

- *Awareness raising* is directed more at the public than at decision-makers. In seeking to educate and make people aware of issues of injustice it is not necessarily intended to accomplish immediate or direct change. Rather it lays a foundation on which further advocacy can build.
- *Campaigning* happens in public and involves mobilization. In some cases campaigning may be focused on convincing decision makers at all levels, including in the church, to take certain actions. In others the focus may be the public at large in order to try and bring about attitudinal, behavioral and social change.
- *Policy engagement* entails working with decision makers, in particular at an international or national level, and often seeks to bring about change by offering expertise or proposing solutions rather than through overt pressure. This form of advocacy may be behind closed doors. It is usually long-term, highly flexible and can deal with great complexity.

The EAA believes the calling to engage in advocacy is not a task we take up when it is convenient, but is a fundamental requirement of living out our faith.

1.2 Advocacy on food

For the whole of humanity, access to adequate, safe, and nutritious food has always formed one of the foundations of a just, peaceful and sustainable world. This vision stands in contrast to the reality of a world in which nearly a billion people lack such access. This brutal injustice is underlined when we consider that at this moment we already produce enough nutritious food to feed everyone on the planet. How we produce food, how we distribute it and how we ensure that all people have access to culturally-appropriate nourishment is a fundamental matter of justice towards people, the Creation and God.

¹ Covenant for Action, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, December 2000

In our Judeo-Christian tradition, food and hunger are central themes throughout the Biblical narrative, from Joseph's control of the land and people of Egypt and Canaan through famine (Genesis 47:13-21) to the sharing together of the early Christians (Acts 2:44-47). "Give us this day our daily bread" is a petition repeated by millions of Christians around the world every day as they pray the Lord's Prayer. This prayer, surrounded by the Biblical narrative that calls us to care for humanity and all of Creation, leads us to two clear, collective tasks in building a just, peaceful and sustainable world. First, living in a broken and sinful world, wherein we see hunger all around, our immediate response as compassionate people of faith is to offer food. After all, Jesus commends those who give food to the hungry, declaring that "just as you did it to one of the least of these members of my family you did it to me" (Matthew 25:35-40)². While providing food in times of want is commendable and necessary, God also requires a second vocation, that we "loose the bonds of injustice. . ." and ". . .let the oppressed go free. . ." (Isaiah 58:6). This vocation requires that we reflect on, critique, and act against the systems that lead to pervasive and debilitating hunger. Thus, while we provide food to those who are in immediate and dire need, we must simultaneously work to expose and eradicate the causes of hunger, much of which results directly from the actions of the rulers and authorities (Ephesians 6:12) and the structures and systems they create and control.

Since there is currently enough food in the world to feed all, it is clear that hunger is a matter of injustice. Some surely must have more than they need, while others live in want. Some may be denied access to the land and resources necessary for producing their food, while others try to control the means and profits of production. Some may be the victims of humanity's carelessness with Creation, with others continue practices that harm the environment now and in the future.

Our faith condemns such inequity. Whether the cause is greed, wastefulness, climate change, unjust market systems, historical reasons or simple ignorance, we cannot tolerate hunger. Access to adequate and nourishing food is a right, not a privilege that only those with ample means can buy. When we practice a just stewardship of the earth, the provision of adequate and nourishing food can occur without doing damage to fragile ecosystems.

In the biblical as well as most cultural traditions, food is more than just a material need. Food has spiritual and sacramental value. Jesus shared meals on many occasions, with a variety of persons. Even as he fed the multitudes, the shared meal possessed a sense of intimacy and communion (Mark 6:31f.). He was eating with tax collectors and sinners, His table fellowship was not just to eat but to build up and affirm equality and human dignity with the rejected ones (Matthew 9:10, Mark 2:15). Jesus told many stories that compared the coming kingdom to a banquet. (for example, Matthew 22:1-12) Among the last moments with his disciples was a supper, which he implored his followers to share in his memory (Matthew 26:26f). The early church shared meals regularly as part of their worship discipline (Acts 2:47).

With this sense of calling and this vision of shalom, we will work with our constituencies and communions across the world in a global campaign to eradicate hunger. Foundational to our approach is the right to food, which resonates with our biblical understandings of justice that all people have access to the means and ability to procure sufficient and nutritious food for themselves without sacrificing other fundamental rights such as housing, education and health. We believe all governments are required to ensure the right to food is protected and fulfilled. These are fundamental steps to reaching the Millennium Development Goals to

² Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, 1989.

eradicate extreme poverty and halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015.

We believe that access to food cannot be guaranteed simply through technical approaches to increasing global production. It is not enough that the world produces enough food to feed everyone. It must reach the poor and the rich alike. At present efforts to increase production are needed in the global South and particularly for small-scale food producers, but in the global North we need to reduce surplus food production that undermines other producers' livelihoods. In future, the world's growing population will need an overall increase in global food production. With a large percentage of poor people making their livelihood from food production, it is imperative that in meeting these production needs we look at food not only as something to be eaten, but also something which gives sustenance (physical, economic and cultural) for those who produce it.

The production, distribution and consumption of food must be based on equality, socially and environmentally sustainable agriculture, and economics which prioritize the welfare of all people. Women, who make up the vast majority of smallholder farmers as well as those in poverty, must be empowered through our response.

The world faces acute crises today – manifested in the severity of the economic crisis, sharp increases and very volatile prices of food, and documented effects from climate change. These crises are interlinked and will have a severe impact on the most vulnerable groups in the developing countries.

Although the multiple crises have been acknowledged by international and national bodies, the responses they are proposing are woefully inadequate. Our systems for producing, buying, selling and sharing food are profoundly broken, and more of the same will not help. We need to recognize that policies and practices of governments, international organizations and agribusiness have been central parts of the problem and we must accept that hunger is being caused by fractures in the structure of our global society. The good news is that, working together, we could change these policies, practices and structures.

This is a crucial moment for Churches to engage in a campaign advocating for those suffering from hunger, bringing their interests to the table, by raising awareness, mobilizing and policy engagement on all levels.

We call for justice for the hungry, and we hunger for justice that will build the foundations of a peaceful and sustainable world for all.

2 Goals and objectives

Goal 1: Advocate for Just Food Production Systems

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and its members advocate for just food production, trade and distribution systems that are participatory and democratic, are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable and support the right of all people to adequate, healthy and culturally appropriate food.³

Objective 1.1:

Promote understanding of just food production, trade and distribution systems among churches.

Specific Strategies

- 1.1 a: Call on the churches to lift up the voices of small-scale food producers, particularly women (such as small-holder farmers, artisanal-fisherfolk, indigenous people, landless people, forest dwellers), as an act of solidarity and in recognition of the key role they play in food production, in order to protect and promote their interests, especially their access to land and water for agricultural production and the ability to save their own seeds and to acquire affordable seeds.
- 1.1 b: Encourage churches to explore and debate the ethical and environmental implications of different approaches to food production, such as food sovereignty, the green revolution and agro-ecology.
- 1.1 c: Collect and share case studies and other resources on just food production, trade and distribution systems.
- 1.1 d: Raise public awareness of key findings of the IAASTD (International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development⁴).
- 1.1 e: Generate awareness of current agricultural practices which are unsustainable (e.g. soil degradation, overuse of chemical inputs, displacement of communities, land expropriation, water pollution).
- 1.1 f: Highlight the multi-functional nature of agriculture as a social, cultural and ecological system.

³ Food production systems include agriculture, fishing and aquaculture, nomadic pastoralism and gathering wild foods, along with trading, processing and distribution of food.

⁴ The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development was a three year intergovernmental collaborative process involving 900 participants and 110 countries and cosponsored by FAO, GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Its reports were completed in April 2008 and endorsed by the majority of the countries involved. However several countries did not accept all its conclusions and others did not take part in the process. See www.agassessment-watch.org

- 1.1 g: Raise awareness of the interdependence of food production, trade and distribution systems on access to unpolluted water, climate and land rights.

Objective 1.2:

Gain the recognition of national governments that international agreements, including trade agreements, must support the right to food.

Specific Strategies

- 1.2 a: Demand effective, enforceable international rules to prevent dumping.
- 1.2 b: Advocate for national and international policies to support South-South trade.
- 1.2 c: Demand that developed countries allow developing countries equitable access to the developed countries' markets.
- 1.2 d: Advocate for the recognition in international agreements of the special nature of the food sector of the economy, and the implementation of provisions allowing flexibility for developing countries to protect their food production systems on grounds of food security, livelihood security, rural development needs and cultural traditions.
- 1.2 e: Oppose any inclusion of patent provisions that undermine the ability of farmers to save and exchange their own seeds in any new international agreements and call for the revision of existing agreements to remove such provisions.
- 1.2 f: Call for provisions in new international agreements to protect communities control over the use of traditional knowledge and of local plants and animals as genetic resources, and support the revision of existing agreements to include such provisions.

Objective 1.3:

Promote reshaping of international food systems and institutions to support just food production, trade and distribution systems.

Specific Strategies

- 1.3 a: Call for responses to food crises to be based on human rights principles and on the recommendations of IAASTD, and to be determined in international, regional and national democratic processes such as through the United Nations.
- 1.3 b: Advocate for national and international regulation of transnational agribusiness and food companies in order to limit their control of food production systems.
- 1.3 c: Promote corporate social responsibility actions toward agribusiness and food companies.

- 1.3 d: Advocate for national and international regulation of financial speculation in order to limit the damage it can inflict on food production systems and hungry people.
- 1.3 e: Call for international policies, free of conditionality, to build the resilience of small-scale food producers against climate shocks.
- 1.3 f: Support ecumenical networks and EAA members working on the right to water and on debt and conditionality.

Objective 1.4:

Advocate for national policies and processes to foster just food production, trade and distribution systems.

Specific Strategies

- 1.4 a: Call on governments to adopt and implement IAASTD recommendations.
- 1.4 b: Call on governments to take responsibility for providing sustained financial support for agriculture and rural development, both in development aid and in national budgets.
- 1.4 c: Call on governments to focus agricultural and rural development support on building the infrastructure, institutions and capacities⁵ that are needed to develop local, regional and national food markets that meet the needs of small-scale food producers, especially women.
- 1.4 d: Raise awareness of commitments that governments have made on support for food production systems and hold them accountable to these promises.
- 1.4 e: Support national agrarian land reform that is participatory, democratic and encompasses equal rights for women to own and inherit land.
- 1.4 f: Strengthen rural and urban connected food systems locally and regionally that are democratic and grassroots driven to create employment and long-term, sustainable food production.

Objective 1.5:

Support the empowerment of women in agriculture.

Specific Strategies

- 1.5 a: Mobilize churches to speak out on the role women play in agriculture and livelihoods and to lift up the voices of women food producers and put their needs at the forefront of the food debate.

⁵ Including, but not limited to: infrastructure – building transport and information systems; institutions – building credit and input markets that are accessible to smallscale food producers; capacities – building training and extension services and technology transfer systems, including fostering simple local knowledge transfer

- 1.5 b: Encourage churches to support women food producers' groups at local, regional and national levels, and to facilitate their engagement with decision makers, including on land rights issues.
- 1.5 c: Focus on gender issues for the 2010 Week of Action on Food.
- 1.5 d: Seek to include the issue of women and food production as a theme for the Women's Day of Prayer.

Goal 2: Advocate for Just and Sustainable Consumption

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and its members advocate for just, sustainable and healthy consumption of food.

Objective 2.1:

Mobilize individuals, through the churches, particularly in countries with per capita over-consumption, to assess their own levels of consumption in light of global food security and commit themselves to making changes to their own personal eating habits.

Specific Strategies

- 2.1 a: Raise awareness of unsustainable consumption habits and their impact on food producers, the environment, the climate and human welfare, including the particular impact of high levels of meat consumption.
- 2.1 b: Promote consumption of local, seasonal, organic, low 'carbon footprint' or fair trade food products.
- 2.1 c: Encourage individuals and churches to learn about and support local farms, in an effort to strengthen rural-urban ties and promote sustainable agriculture.

Objective 2.2:

Improve global food security by promoting just, sustainable and healthy societal consumption patterns.

Specific Strategies

- 2.2 a: Develop theological reflections on the just consumption including nutrition of body and soul.
- 2.2 b: Promote actions to pressure major food retailers and other major food companies to promote sustainable and equitable practices.
- 2.2 c: Explore developing a curriculum on faith, food systems and consumerism or promoting similar existing resources.
- 2.2 d: Collect and share materials on the impacts of the commodification of food.
- 2.2 e: Promote understanding of the interaction between food consumption, food security and climate change, with the aim of reducing the impact of food consumption on climate change.

Objective 2.3:

Strengthen understanding of the linkages between food, nutrition and consumption needs and the HIV pandemic.

Specific Strategies

- 2.3 a: Connect with the HIV and AIDS strategy group in developing strategies on the interaction between access to food and both vulnerability to HIV transmission and effectiveness of HIV treatment.

Goal 3: Advocate to Realize the Right to Food for All People

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and its members advocate to affirm and realize the right to food.⁶

Objective 3.1:

Promote understanding of the right to food at all levels (international, national, churches, public), while recognizing the indivisibility of rights and the relationship of the right to food to water, land and other rights.

Specific Strategies

- 3.1 a: Write, collect, and share popular materials, including faith perspectives, on what the right to food is and means to people in different contexts.
- 3.1 b: Collect information on cases of where the right to food is being respected, protected and fulfilled, where it is being violated, and the structural factors (e.g. climate, financial crisis, inequality) that can contribute to or limit its achievement. Share this information, including on the EAA website, in approachable languages and formats for church people.
- 3.1 c: Develop and share theological reflection and worship materials on the right to food, while deepening reflection on the relationship of faith-based values, community and human dignity to human rights.
- 3.1 d: Seek to use the right to food as a theme for prayer and worship events around international commemorative or awareness days and events.

⁶ The human right to adequate food, as defined in *General comment 12* of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C.12/1999/5, 12 May 1999, available at www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/comments.htm. The right to food entitles everyone to both physical and economic access at all times to adequate food, or the means to get adequate food. The right thus is not limited to a right to be given food through aid. It is about having an income base that enables people to access adequate food. Social safety net policies are needed as a last resort. Adequate food means food that meets the person's nutritional needs, is not contaminated in any way and is acceptable within the person's culture.

Objective 3.2:

Mobilize churches to speak out in public on the right to food and pressure governments to comply with their obligations toward the realization of the right to food.

Specific Strategies

- 3.2 a: Develop simple explanations of government's obligations and share these within church networks.
- 3.2 b: Highlight examples of faith-based campaign efforts related to food and build linkages between churches, organizations and national efforts.
- 3.2 c: Utilize petitions and press releases that highlight voices of church leaders and affected communities in support of the right to food.
- 3.2 d: Design and promote a user-friendly human rights impact assessment methodology that empowers local communities and churches, including in the global South, to document cases of violation or realization of the right to food; use these for advocacy at human rights bodies, through the media and in engagement with decision makers.
- 3.2 e: Promote monitoring and evaluate the implementation of the right to food around the world by joining the consortium of the *Right to Food and Nutrition Watch*.⁷
- 3.2 f: Encourage involvement in monitoring of implementation of the right to food by developing and sharing a model letter for churches to send to national governments; share the responses.
- 3.2 g: Explore possibilities for publicizing monitoring of implementation of the right to food through tools such as 'report cards' or 'league tables' for governments.
- 3.2 h: Promote a Churches Week of Action on Food around World Food Day; develop and share easily adapted resources for the Week of Action to support awareness raising and action, including a model church resolution on commitment to the right to food.

Objective 3.3:

Influence policy makers at all levels to formulate and implement policies that guarantee the right to food, ensuring that the response to the food crisis takes into account the needs of vulnerable groups, and follows a right to food approach.

Specific Strategies

- 3.3 a: Build pressure on national governments to elaborate national strategies for the realization of the right to food.
- 3.3 b: Call on UN organizations and the International Financial Institutions – in the context of the food crises – to refer to the right

⁷ *Right to Food and Nutrition Watch* provides a systematic compilation of best practices for the realization of the right to food and also documents where violations have been committed. It is currently published by Brot für die Welt, ICCO and FIAN International and is available at www.fian.org/resources/documents/rfn-watch

to food, and in particular the Voluntary Guidelines⁸, as a guiding instrument in their programs.

- 3.3 c: Prepare options, advice and advocacy points to integrate the right to food approach into the implementation of the Comprehensive Framework for Action of the UN High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis⁹.
- 3.3 d: Encourage renegotiation of the Food Aid Convention with inclusion of the right to food approach by highlighting and supporting EAA members working on this.
- 3.3 e: Promote the creation of social safety nets to ensure food security, especially for the most vulnerable groups of people (e.g. children, the elderly, people living with HIV).

⁸ *Voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security*, adopted by the FAO Council in 2004, available at www.fao.org/righttofood/publi_01_en.htm

⁹ UN High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, *Comprehensive framework for action*, July 2008, available at www.un.org/issues/food/taskforce/cfa.shtml

3 Landmark dates, 2009

Date	Event
23-25 February 2009	EAA Food Strategy Group meeting, Geneva, Switzerland
22 March 2009	World Day for Water
18-20 April 2009	G-8 Meeting together with the G5 on agriculture, Treviso, Italy
22-24 April 2009	G8 Environment Ministers Meeting, Siracusa, Italy
25-26 April 2009	World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings, Washington DC, USA
2-17 May 2009	Fair Trade Fortnight, New Zealand and Australia
4-15 May 2009	UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-17), New York, USA
16 May 2009	Conference on land-grabbing, Geneva, Switzerland (3D)
5 June 2009	World Environment Day
September/October 2009	EAA Food Strategy Group meeting
late months of 2009	World Food Summit, possibly in the US
28 September – 10 October 2009	UN Climate Negotiations
October 2009	Churches Week of Action on Food
October 2009	Food or trade seminar, Finland (Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission)
6-7 October 2009	World Bank/IMF Annual Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey
12-13 October 2009	High-level Conference on How to Feed the World to 2050, Rome, Italy
16 October 2009	World Food Day / World Foodless Day
17 October 2009	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
14-21 November 2009	FAO Conference, Rome, Italy
7-18 December 2009	United Nations Climate Change Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark
10 December 2009	International Human Rights Day

4 How We Will Work

4.1 Members

The work of the EAA will be led by the churches and Christian organizations who are members of the Alliance. EAA members have committed themselves to working together to confront injustice, strengthening the collective action of churches and their members, church-related agencies, and other Christian organizations. In this Food Campaign, EAA members will join together to:

- promote approaches to political, economic, structural, social and cultural issues around food based on a shared commitment to the Gospel and concern for those people who suffer from injustice.
- confront unjust structures, practices and attitudes related to food and offer alternative visions and strategies, based on the analysis and engagement of the people affected.
- raise awareness within our own churches, schools, communities, constituencies and the public at large on issues of common concern around food, and mobilize support for specific campaigns or collective actions as proposed by the food strategy group.
- share information with one another, provide resources, and contribute actively and creatively in implementing common approaches in the food campaign at the local, national, and international levels.
- continue to reflect theologically on this work.

EAA members range from small local organizations, to national church alliances and agencies, to worldwide communions, ecumenical bodies and international non-governmental organizations. Members bring a diversity of perspectives, expertise and experience: in region, in size, in denomination, in closeness to decision makers and grassroots communities. Through sharing our strengths we can enhance and broaden our own capacity, and increase our collective impact in advocacy.

4.2 Framework

This Framework for Action is designed to provide a framework or “road map” for the shared advocacy of EAA members in this campaign. By focusing our efforts around specific goals and objectives, we have the opportunity to be more effective and to learn from and strengthen each other’s work.

All members will find opportunity to contribute to achieving the goals of this campaign. Members are encouraged to take action on the campaign in its entirety; however it is acknowledged that strategies will be adapted to each local situation and it is recognized that it is not possible for all to engage in this work in the same way or with the same resources.

4.2.1 Policy engagement, campaigning, awareness raising

Members may wish to engage in advocacy work arising from the goals, objectives and strategies of the food campaign framework in any or all of the three forms of advocacy (outlined in 1.1 above): policy engagement, campaigning and awareness raising.

In *awareness raising* members can strengthen each other’s capacity and work by sharing research and popular education materials related to the goals and objectives of the food campaign that are already produced by members. If there is a need for a resource on a topic

that is not currently met through existing publications, several members may wish to use the EAA to facilitate joint development of a new resource. Through EAA communication tools, members may also wish to share or access expertise, experience and ideas on new ways and new technologies for raising awareness on the issues of the food campaign. Connections between members can also be used to initiate speaking tours and exposure visits.

In *campaigning*, members may wish to mobilize together in joint actions arising from the Framework for Action. Such actions may be as loosely or closely cooperative as members choose. Some actions may be taken in intentional solidarity with other members around the world and sharing an overall theme or target and perhaps a date, but being otherwise very much developed by each member to their own local context and organizational priorities. Others actions may involve much closer cooperation in developing messages, resources, action ideas and media work.

If members are working on a particular issue related to the goals and objectives of the food campaign, and for which they wish to raise global support, they can use EAA email ‘action alerts’ to reach out to the EAA network and call for action. Through the campaign newsletter and other communication tools members are able to update each other on campaigns and actions: sharing information on key developments that could be of significance elsewhere, informing each other of plans, publicizing new initiatives, providing motivation through news of successes and offering lessons learned from experience.

As with awareness raising, members may wish to share resources aimed at mobilization or cooperate in development of new materials and to benefit from expertise, new ideas and tools for campaigning. Where possible, resources should be shared in a timely manner, allowing members to distribute them to their churches and networks.

In *policy engagement*, pooling of expertise and experience can greatly reinforce members’ effectiveness, as can bringing together the representatives of multiple constituencies. Members can use the EAA to coordinate message and approach between policy engagement work on an issue in various different fora.

The EAA has been successful in getting members’ representatives placed in seats in decision making fora in UN structures and other institutions, which might not have been accessible for members acting alone. These representatives are then able to strengthen the capacity of all members on policy engagement by voicing issues of concern to members and reporting back.

4.2.2 Local, national, regional and global strategies

Members may wish to initiate local and national advocacy work on food issues as a result of the EAA campaign, taking a lead from the goals, objective and strategies of the Framework for Action. They may also choose to cast existing advocacy work and actions as a part of the wider EAA campaign, undertaken in solidarity with churches around the world and benefiting from resources, expertise and inspiration from other EAA members. Members however do always remain free to maintain separate advocacy work on food outside of the EAA campaign.

Members can take up advocacy work in the campaign on their own, but also are encouraged to link and work with other EAA members at a national or regional level – thinking and working creatively to adapt or create strategies that will be most effective in each context. Members may also wish to seek opportunities to hold national or regional EAA meetings, possibly taking advantage of other events to combine with such a meeting.

At a global level, the food campaign strategy group will take a lead in proposed strategies and actions for shared advocacy work, building on the involvement, advice, and feedback of EAA

members. EAA members are encouraged to communicate with strategy group members and the strategy group can also facilitate the establishment of EAA working groups on a particular issue. When an international event of significance to the EAA food campaign is being held in a country, members in that country may choose to take a lead in enabling advocacy work around the event. At international events, EAA members have in the past sometimes chosen to pool resources for a shared exhibition space, all benefitting from the increased visibility.

4.2.3 Strategic partnerships

Members are encouraged to seek opportunities to work with others who share the goals of the EAA. By working together, we often can be more effective. At the same time the EAA has a unique voice coming from the churches and we always try to make this heard.

4.3 Communication

The EAA Coordinating Office plays an important role in enabling communication with EAA members to ensure that all have the information they need. Members are strongly encouraged to contribute information and resources (e.g. policy, theological, liturgical, popular, photographs) through EAA Coordinating Office for the benefit of all Alliance members.

4.3.1 Communication tools

The EAA Coordinating Office maintains an email distribution list for the food campaign which is anticipated to reach around 2000 subscribers at the start of the campaign, many of whom will pass messages on again to their own networks. This distribution list is used to circulate bulletins and action alerts.

Bulletins are circulated several times a year and contain news and updates on the EAA campaign and members' advocacy work. Members are encouraged to contribute articles about their work and to tell the Coordinating Office about any new resources they have produced, which can be highlighted in the 'resources' section.

Action alerts are sent as the need arises, and call for action on particular matter related to the goals and objectives of the food campaign. Members are encouraged to make use of this tool to multiply the impact in their work, on occasions when global action is possible. By its nature, this tool is often used for crisis situations that could not have been predicted, however when possible this tool is most effective if the alert can be sent far enough in advance to allow recipients time to react.

The EAA can host email listserves to facilitate ecumenical communication in preparation for an event or around an issue.

The EAA website at www.e-alliance.ch contains a wealth of information, news and resources on the campaign. Members are encouraged to send news and press releases on their advocacy work on food, which can be highlighted on the site. The site has a calendar and members are encouraged to send information on planned events which can be added to this. The EAA's own publications can be downloaded from the website or, in most cases, hardcopies can be ordered via the website.

The website includes a resource library of materials related to advocacy and to the EAA's two campaigns, which can be searched or browsed by subject. Members are encouraged to contribute their own publications to the resource library. New resources from members can also be featured elsewhere on the website.

There is a password protected area of the website for members where further resources are available. These include contact lists for the food strategy group and for the people in member organizations who act as primary contacts for the EAA food campaign.

EAA member organizations are strongly encouraged to place links on their websites to the EAA and to the campaigns in which they actively participate.

Other web-based collaboration tools will be used to increase participation and joint planning.

4.3.2 Language

The working language of the EAA is English, although where possible, translations of key resources into at least Spanish and French will be made. EAA members are encouraged to aid in the dissemination of information about the EAA's work by translating materials into other languages.

4.3.3 Mailings

The EAA also shares hardcopies of resources. This remains of great value to many members, especially those with limited internet access. All members receive copies of the EAA's own publications. On occasion, materials produced by members and other partner organizations that are of particular value to the food campaign are posted to members. The Coordinating Office is also able to supply mailing addresses to members who wish to share hardcopies of their publications within the EAA network. Members who wish to extend the audience for their publications this way are encouraged to contact the Coordinating Office.

4.3.4 Speaking for the Alliance

Members speaking out publically on an EAA campaign issue through, for instance, a press release or statement, will most often speak from their own churches and organizations, making reference to their participation in the EAA. Members should feel free to adapt and use press releases issued by the EAA in their own networks.

Members however are not able to speak on behalf of the EAA. The Board of Directors, Strategy Groups, and Coordinator/Executive Director have particular roles in determining when and how the EAA speaks on its campaign issues, and can designate EAA representatives for particular events and actions that will help further our campaign goals and objectives.

More information can be found in the policy, "Who Speaks for the Alliance" available in the members' area of the website.

4.4 Strategy Group

The Food campaign is directed by a 12-member Strategy Group composed of Alliance members with particular expertise and experience. Throughout the campaign they will develop strategies, monitor the implementation of the campaign, communicate with members, adjust planning as needed, and evaluate the results.

The members of the Strategy Group are:

- Ms. Carolin Callenius, Brot für die Welt
- Ms. Minnie Anne M. Calub, National Council of Churches of the Philippines
- Rev. Malcolm Damon, Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA
- Mr. Paul Hagerman, Canadian Foodgrains Bank

- Ms. Helene Hoggen, Norwegian Church Aid
- Mr. Gary Kenny, United Church of Canada
- Mr. Duane Poppe, The Lutheran World Federation
- Mr. José Pablo Prado Cordova, YMCA of Guatemala
- Rev. Wallace Ryan Kuroiwa, United Church of Christ
- Ms. Nina Suomalainen, FinnChurchAid
- Rev. Dr. Tolbert Jallah, Jr., Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa
- Ms. Ester Wolf, Brot für Alle
- Ms. Karin Ulmer of APRODEV serves as an Advisor to the Strategy Group.

4.5 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the EAA has overall responsibility for the work of the Alliance, monitors the work of the Strategy Groups, and is authorized to speak on behalf of the Alliance. This 12 person board includes nine members elected from among EAA members at its Assembly, a representative from each strategy group, and the EAA Coordinator.

4.6 EAA Coordinating Office

The EAA Coordinating Office is based in Geneva, Switzerland. The Coordinating Office's role is one of facilitation, enabling the work of Alliance members.

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4.7 Join us

Churches and Christian organizations that share the guiding principles of the Alliance are invited to join us. The process to join is quite simple and details can be found on the web site: www.e-alliance.ch. At the same address you may also subscribe to the Food Campaign bulletins and actions alerts and download or order resource materials.