



AGENDA
Meeting of the LWF Council
Medan, Indonesia, 12 – 17 June 2014

Exhibit 9.0.2

THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Office of the
General Secretary

TO: LWF Member Churches

lutheranworld.org

26 March 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace to you!

I am writing to update you on the **LWF's advocacy for climate justice** and to invite you to take part in a developing initiative to **Fast for the Climate on the 1st of each month**.

In the 2010 LWF Assembly in Stuttgart, the LWF committed to "caring for the environment, which we do not own, so future generations may enjoy the fruits of creation and lead wholesome lives."

The LWF sent a delegation to the 19th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP19), held in Warsaw, Poland last November. Our delegates, all of them youth, who represented all LWF regions, initiated a fasting campaign to underline the urgency of the negotiations on climate change and to advocate for climate justice. Many people, both Christian and non-Christian, joined and were fasting in solidarity with those who are vulnerable to climate change. The LWF President, some Vice-Presidents and other Council members spontaneously joined the action when they heard about it. I too felt that I needed to support our delegation and joined them in fasting. The messages were clear:

*"We fast **in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable** who are disproportionately affected by extreme weather events. These events are increasing in frequency and intensity with climate change.*

Fasting unites us as a common practice in our different religious traditions. Although we may be relying on different spiritual backgrounds we can all join in the common experience of voluntary fasting."

[\(Interfaith Call to Fast for Climate Justice, Warsaw 2013\)](#)

The nations of the world have agreed that the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris in December 2015 (Conference of Parties – COP21) will be the decisive time for making global agreements to slow down global warming.

Through its member churches and its engagement in ecumenical and interfaith networks, the LWF is working to make a contribution toward the achievement of a successful result there. The LWF Council 2014 will discuss the strategic direction LWF is taking for Climate Justice Advocacy

On the way to COP21 in Paris I want to invite you to

1. Share good practices

How can we reach being eco-friendly or CO2 neutral churches?
What do you already do? Do you have good examples to share?
Please share on our Facebook page "LWF for Climate Justice"

2. Fast for the Climate each month

An important symbolic witness that we in the LWF can make is to join in the initiative of voluntary fasting. It has first emerged from brothers and sisters in the Philippines and been taken as a sign of solidarity by churches in Liberia, India, Chile and many others. Knowing that so many have to involuntarily fast and are suffering of hunger every day because of poverty and marginalization we want to stand together with these sisters and brothers in our communion through this proposed action.

I am inviting you, the LWF Member Churches, to pray and fast for the climate on the first day of each month.

If you are able to, join the action, speak about this action in your church and your congregation, invite others, help raise awareness and create momentum for an urgently required change.

LWF will publish monthly news about Climate Justice in order to support and inspire conversation and sharing. Look it up in our website!

3. Engage in climate justice advocacy on the political level

Being citizens in this world we can engage with local and national governments to speak about their climate change politics. You can consider doing this in broader alliances with the ecumenical family or as a diapraxis in interreligious context.

The LWF Council will be asked to endorse a framework for the interaction and key messages with governments. We plan to share this framework with you later this year, as well as other resources that may support your engagement in climate justice issues.

Thank you for prayerfully considering of these three invitations. I will be interested to hear and read your reactions and reflections on advocacy for climate justice

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Martin Junge
General Secretary

Why does LWF prioritize Climate Change?

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing humanity. It threatens the living conditions of future generations. Limiting the impact of climate changes that have already occurred and minimizing further changes will require concerted global commitment at all levels. Policy advocacy and awareness-raising are therefore essential if governments and other key actors are to address climate change at the political level and if individuals are to play their part in addressing this issue.

In the **2010 LWF Youth Pre-Assembly Message** youth have raised this concern: “We are challenged to promote sustainable development in its economic, environmental and social aspects”. They decided to actively engage and promote ecological justice and equity within the LWF communion.

The **2010 LWF Assembly in Stuttgart** expressed its awareness “that the window of opportunity for the reduction of greenhouse gases is shrinking. We realize that those who are most to blame often feel the least affected.” It highlighted “the grave impacts on food security that are already being felt in many parts of the world as a result of changing climatic patterns”.

The LWF called upon “all governments to show more decisive leadership in responding to climate change and in moving beyond reliance on fossil fuels for energy needs”. It called for enhanced efforts “to address the impacts of climate change on development and poverty in the most vulnerable communities”.

Climate change is therefore an advocacy priority for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), as described in the **LWF Strategy 2012-2017**.

As part of this joint commitment, the LWF was represented by delegations consisting of youth at the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework (COP) in Doha, Qatar in November 2012 (COP18) and in Warsaw, Poland, in November 2013 (COP19).

In 2012 the LWF delegation to COP18 recommended the following commitments to the LWF that were adopted in the **LWF Council 2013**:

- Develop or update a holistic climate change strategy that addresses advocacy, carbon emissions, training and awareness raising, and humanitarian assistance
- Engage with civil society to continuously advocate and lobby governments towards increased action and ambition on mitigation and adaptation
- Further explore the issue of climate change through theological reflection in Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith frameworks
- Commit to becoming carbon-neutral at the communion, national, congregational and individual level
- Influence the culture to live in sustainable ways and address the negative impacts of social inequality and unsustainable consumerism

- Continue to engage in United Nations processes related to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, particularly through ecumenical, interfaith and youth networks

The **LWF delegation to COP 19 in 2013** continued their work based on these decisions. The delegation was very active in interfaith networking and in promoting a Call to Fast for Climate Justice as a way to express solidarity with the most vulnerable who are already affected by climate change. This initiative received support from many different faith representatives, both Christians and non-Christians.

As another result, LWF was invited to join the "**Interfaith Liaison Committee to UNFCCC**" to effectively coordinate and communicate between the Interfaith actors at COPs and UNFCCC.

What are the main goals for LWF?

LWF plays an active and visible role in advocacy and action for climate justice.

LWF member churches are exchanging good practices on being eco-friendly churches and motivate each other.

The LWF member churches are increasingly engaged in action for climate justice on the national and local level.

LWF through its engagement in ecumenical and interfaith networks makes a contribution toward the achievement of a successful UN Climate Change negotiation (COP21) in Paris in December 2015

Youth participation on a programmatic level is carried out in a meaningful, effective and accompanied way.

What is the LWF planning to do?

On the road to the Conference of Parties in Paris in 2015 there are several steps planned:

- All **LWF member churches** are invited to join the "**Fast for the Climate**" and to engage more with their national governments.
- LWF will **continue to engage in United Nations processes** related to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, particularly through ecumenical, interfaith and youth networks.
- The **LWF plans to engage in high level meetings in 2014**, such as the United Nations summit on climate change to be held in New York on September 23.

- LWF will facilitate the **successful participation of the LWF delegation** at the December 2014 UN Climate Change Conference (COP20) in Lima, Peru. We ask church leaders to support their delegates and already plan to invite them for conversation.
- The LWF Website will **update with relevant information** on Climate Justice
- The LWF Youth Desk will continue to **provide educational material** and capacity building.

Currently, the LWF is engaged in a coordinated process with the World Council of Churches (WCC), ACT Alliance, Climate Action Network International (CAN), YOUNGO and other organizations to further the strategic advocacy alliance for climate justice in the years 2014 and 2015.

We would like to invite as many people as possible to make it visible that people of different faiths can speak with one voice.

To support reflection and interaction, the [LWF will be publishing a monthly short reflection](#) on fasting, climate and climate justice, and their importance to people of faith. I invite you to use these resources with Bible study groups, confirmation classes, youth groups and other gatherings.

The Website www.fastfortheclimate.org will be launched in the end of March 2014 and I invite you to sign up to support this global, interreligious and intergenerational initiative for climate justice.