“...Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the WSCF is called to be a prophetic witness in church and society. This vision is nurtured by a radical hope for God’s reign in history.”

In 2011 many young Africans experienced tides of change and uncertainty. Amongst hard challenges of youth unemployment and migration, political instability, food and humanitarian crises, opportunities continued to abound and amazing positive changes happened through WSCF’s work in the region.

Among the highlights of WSCF Africa’s work were four sub-regional trainings on Gender and Human Rights, Combating and Preventing Corruption, Action on Migration, and Climate Justice respectively in Namibia, Togo, and Tanzania. The Training on Corruption, which drew 26 young men and women from seven different denominations, was a new theme this year, and was a response to the challenges many young Africans face to discern, prevent, and reduce corruption in their own contexts. The training, led by the Africa regional leadership, effectively met its aim to improve the knowledge and attitudes of members related to corruption and its practice, and gave specific tools, techniques, and methods to recognize and respond to corruption.

The Action on Migration Training in Tanzania brought together 20 young men and women from seven different denominations to raise awareness and educate each participant on matters related to the causes and consequences of migration in Africa, as a crucial response to the unemployment, instability, and uncertainty that drives young people to migrate in search of new opportunities in the Western world. Through critical reflection upon migration (its feminization and commercialization, brain drain, dangers of trafficking, etc.), the training aimed at broadening the participants’ perceptions of the realities and dangers of migrating to the Western world, for better informed and responsible decision-making.

Another highlight of the year was a strategic Senior Friends meeting—the first in recent years— which served to consolidate and strengthen the Senior Friends network in Africa to better support and grow the national movements. WSCF Africa also worked intentionally to develop relationships and partnerships with ecumenical partners, such as the Youth Desk of the All Africa Conference of Churches, the Youth leader of the African Council of Religious Leaders, Religions for Peace, and The Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiative in Africa. The Regional Secretary also continued representing the WSCF on the Board of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, of which the WSCF is a member.

WSCF Africa also took part in the Conference of Parties (COP) in Durban in December. Some members of the SCM of Malawi and Mozambique were an important part of the youth caravan which started from Nairobi and travelled by road to Durban. They represented WSCF in the global civil society campaign for Climate Justice under the theme “We Have Faith, Act Now for Climate Justice.”

Georgine Khenge Djeutane, the Africa Regional Secretary, also prioritized movement visits with the goal of encouraging and strengthening the national movements. She hopes next year to increase the region’s work on eco-justice, strengthen partnerships, and increase the region’s financial and human resources to further grow the community and strengthen WSCF’s impact.

VISIT THE WSCF AFRICA REGION WEBSITE AT WWW.WSCF-AFRICA.ORG TO LEARN MORE.
Universal Day of Prayer for Students Liturgy 2011

Excerpt From Prayer of Intercession:

Holy God, whose Spirit swept over the face of the water at creation, hear our prayers for all who suffer from lack of water today:
We pray for a just and peaceable sharing of water among nations and peoples. We pray for all who put their lives at risk as they stand with communities who struggle for their land and forests, rivers and springs.

For peace on Earth and peace with the earth, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who seek to rebuild communities shattered by the circle of economic injustice, poverty, and violence. We pray for all women who suffer from violence, and yet continue to care for family and children, to grow and prepare food, carry water, earn a living and offer support to others. We pray for all whose homes are lost to floods, typhoons and hurricanes, and for those whose lands and homes will be swallowed by the sea.

For peace on Earth and peace with the earth, hear our prayer.

We pray for all students, the future leaders of nations and peoples, the future leaders of the market and economies, of faith communities, the future leaders in arts and education that they may hear and promote your call to justice and peace. We pray for those who are unaware, those who cannot bear the knowledge of the suffering of others, or feel helpless in the enormity of the crisis, that you will open their hearts, reveal their strength, and open their voices in prayer and action.

For peace on Earth and peace with the earth, hear our prayer.

Holy God, we pray for just peace:
Open our hearts, so that we who seek your way of life may be bold in witnessing to your longing for justice and peace.

That all may be free from fear and from want;
That enmity, exclusion and oppression may be overcome;
And that the whole of Creation may rejoice and glorify you.

For peace on Earth and peace with the earth, hear our prayer.

“...but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

from John 4:1-14