



## **RESOLUTION OF THE 35<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION**

**BOGOTA, 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY- 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015-03-17**

Whereas, the World Student Christian Federation traditionally meets every four to six years to assess, evaluate and effect changes that enhances the work of the Federation through the works of the Regional offices and the national movements, and;

Whereas, the Federation convened at its 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in the City of Bogota, Colombia hosted by the SCM Colombia, under the auspices of Latin America and Caribbean Region, and;

Whereas, 78 delegates, 85 observers, composed of Senior Friends and Partners participated in the General Assembly, and;

Whereas, the GA, having thoroughly discussed the state of the Federation now hereby resolved the following:

### **MIDDLE EAST**

#### **PALESTINE**

The basis of The World Student Christian Federation's view on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is based on International Law; Human Rights Law International Humanitarian Law, International Conventions and the call from the Palestinian Kairos Document. Therefore, we seek to restore justice and work for a just and lasting peace in the Holy land:

1. We call for an end to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and all forms of discrimination; as this occupation is a crime against God and humanity.

2. Jerusalem must be an open and shared city for the two peoples and the three Abrahamic religions.

3. The Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories – including East Jerusalem – are illegal under International Law and must be dismantled.
4. We call to revisit theological positions that support certain unjust political options with regard to the Palestinians; theologies that legitimize the Israeli Occupation of the Palestinian land.
5. The Wall constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian territories is a breach of international law and must be dismantled.
6. Palestinians’ right of self-determination must be respected, as should be the right of return.
7. Maintaining just peace and a sustainable solution to the conflict is only achieved through peaceful means. Violence cannot be justified whether perpetrated by Israelis or Palestinians.
8. We call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanction of the occupation, as a non-violent tool for justice, peace and security.
9. We call churches and ecumenical organizations worldwide to visit the occupied Palestinian territory in accordance with Kairos Palestine call under “Come and See”
10. We call upon the Regional and National WSCF and SCMs to educate their members on the conflict and be engaged in solidarity activities with the Palestinian people and with justice- building initiatives

## **SYRIA**

The 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the WSCF is against violence committed towards Syria and all Syrian Refugees, women and children.

The Church is suffering, Christians are being killed and assassinated because of their religion.

1. To express solidarity with the Syrian people in their daily struggle.
2. To condemn the killing of innocents.

## **EGYPT**

Since long ago, Egyptian Christians have suffered from the Muslim Brotherhood movement, which has been trying to dominate and claim power since 1928. They succeeded to reach the presidency in the year 2012/2013, were Christians had suffered to the extreme.

1. That the World Student Christian Federation continues to pray for the Egyptian Christian minority that are still suffering in Egypt.

2. That the WSCF carry out official events in Egypt to examine the real meaning of solidarity.

## **ARMENIA**

Considering that 2015 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire during World War I and that the 35th General Assembly of the World Student Christian Federation focused on the issue of justice and peace worldwide, we recommend that the WSCF and its constituency:

1. To support the cause of the Armenian people
2. To pray for the Student Christian Movement in Armenia to be one and build God's peace for the Armenian people all over the world.
3. To remember the Armenian people, especially on April 24.

## **IRAQ**

On June 10, 2014 ISIS took control over many cities in Iraq like Nineveh vale where more than 100,000 Christian Iraqi people live. It is considered the third largest population of Christian in all of Iraq. ISIS destroyed one of our oldest church in Nineveh vale and Takreet and kidnapped many. They were given three choices: Convert to Islam, Pay Tribute or Die.

Therefore, what is happening now in Iraq is not a coincidence; it is carefully organized and planned. So we believe that what is happening to the Iraqi Christians and other minorities in Iraq is close to genocide and is a striking violation of the International Humanitarian Laws. Sadly the reactions of the International Community are too weak and inefficient.

We call on the WSCF to:

1. Reach out to the decision makers and communicate our message through all forms of media and social networks.
2. Call for urgent humanitarian Relief work for the Iraqi Christians and other Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs).
3. Urge the international community to assume its duties towards the Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq. The most urgent of these duties is to take all the necessary measures to restore security and the rule of law in Mousel and the other devastated villages so IDPs can safely return home.

## **EUROPE**

1. We request that the WSCF Executive Committee together with 6 months' Transition Team identify and implement a solution in order to decrease costs incurred by the presence of the Inter-regional Office (IRO) in Geneva. We request that this be implemented as soon as possible, latest by the end of 2015. We recommend following options:
  - A. Change of the IRO location to a cheaper international location (either in Europe or in another region)
  - B. Keep the IRO in Geneva only with a legal presence and no office/no staff in Geneva to decrease costs. The IRO staff would work from their home countries. (GS coming to Geneva once or twice a year for partner visits, etc. as required).
  - C. Any other creative solution that decreases costs of the IRO in Geneva
2. We request that the Executive Committee will acknowledge alternative/s to the global *Give One be One* campaign which SCMs or regions may develop with the objective to help the IRO budget.
3. We request that the Executive Committee will communicate to the regions and SCMs any recommendations they receive from the Transition group. This must occur before any WSCF Executive Committee decisions are made.

## **NORTH AMERICA**

The North America Region asks for the support of the Assembly as we work to build partnerships with First Nations communities and combat systemic and cultural racism. We ask for your support as we try to seek right relations with all peoples.

## **AFRICA**

1. The Africa Region seeks the support of the General Assembly to continue its fight for gender justice and equality as it relates to discouraging early and forced marriages in Africa
2. Enhancement of youth opportunities for young graduates through providing seed money and entrepreneurship skills before entering the job market
3. Institute an intervention that curtails all forms of human trafficking and discourage illegal immigrations by advocating for greater access to resources by all people in Africa
4. Reach out to young people who are vulnerable to terrorist groups (Boko Haram, Al Shabab, etc) by promoting economic empowerment for the youth at community level

5. Advocate for greater access to quality education for the girl child and other vulnerable groups through the provision of more national and international funding

## **ASIA PACIFIC**

WSCF Advocacy and Solidarity Committee (ASC) is committed to be in solidarity with the anti-POSCO struggle as part of our commitment to mining justice. Student Christian Movement of India, WSCF Asia Pacific and WSCF North America are intensely working on campaigning to save life of the people in the POSCO site.

## **GLOBAL**

### **WSCF Advocacy and Solidarity Committee**

1. We affirm the Advocacy and Solidarity Committee as an effective mechanism of the WSCF, which national SCMs can take full advantage of;
2. We encourage regions to affirm an AS coordinator in each region;
3. Subject to availability, we recommend that the IRO appoints a staff person for ASC work;
4. We suggest that the ASC develop a clear mandate for ASC regional representatives in a two-years staggered term;
5. We recommend that WSCF continue and refine its representation at the United Nations and create a strategy for it;
6. We recommend that the ASC develop a strategy on the WSCF thematic priorities and current work.