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***Post-2015 Agenda and Human Rights  
 Köhler and Däubler-Gmelin at the Meeting of the JP Commission in Berlin***

Only a change of economic activities, consumption and production patterns even in the global north can contribute to a worldwide sustainable development and to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. Therefore a major structural transformation is needed, said Prof Dr Horst Köhler, former federal president and member of the High Level Panel of the UN post-2015 development agenda during the meeting of the JP Commission on 25/26 October 2013 in Berlin.

Köhler called upon the Churches as Global Players and the civil society to continue to enrich the political debate with regard to the UN General Assembly in 2014 and to keep the subject in Germany on the agenda.

Prof Dr Heiner Bielefeldt emphasized that the debate on human rights and traditional values is necessary in view of the implementation and anchoring of human rights on the local level. At the same time it is dangerous, he added, if for example in a resolution of the Human Rights Council the protection of human rights is subject to "cultural reservations".

On the one hand, traditional values and cultures can provide a local access and promote adoption and ownership if they are translated into the local context said Fr. Leonard Chiti SJ from Lusaka/Zambia. Using the example of violence against women, Prof Dr Däubler-Gmelin explained that on the other hand, traditional values can also be misused in order to justify ongoing human rights violations and to maintain relations of violence.

***Human rights as a basis for international cooperation***

Before the UN negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, bishop Ackermann, president of the German Commission for Justice and Peace, declared himself in favour of an anchoring of international cooperation in a human rights foundation during a KNA interview on 25 September 2013. He considers a participation of everybody, especially of groups from developing countries and emerging economies, necessary for the development of goals. Concepts of the orientation towards the common good or of sustainable lifestyles do really exist. "Decent working conditions, social security and living wages are human rights which are obligatory for the states and the enterprises. If these human rights were also applied to migrant and informally employed workers, the worldwide poverty could be reduced considerably", said bishop Dr Ackermann.

The ILO initiative to include the issue of decent work in the report of the High Level Panel and thus in the UN negotiations on the post-2015 agenda, was successfully supported by JP. The "Statement of Catholic-inspired organizations on decent work and the post-2015 development agenda" had been presented to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and to Prof Dr Köhler's Sherpa group and was published with



Meeting of the Commission:  
 Wallacher, Köhler,  
 Ackermann



Human rights and traditional  
 values:  
 Legutke, Bielefeldt, Chiti,  
 Däubler-Gmelin

the KNA interview of bishop Ackermann. In addition, it was presented at the general assembly of the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions.

### ***Side Event on human rights and traditional values in Geneva***



On 6 June 2013 a side event on human rights and traditional values was carried out at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, supported by an informal talk with representatives of different states at the German embassy on 5 June 2013. The speakers unanimously rejected attempts at introducing a new terminology into the Human Rights Council. Fr. Cleophas Lungu, Secretary General of the Zambia Episcopal Conference, pointed out, among other things, that due to the cultural and ethnic diversity in many African countries, a reference to cultural traditions to support human rights was not helpful, because they were extremely different in every ethnic group and sometimes even in every village.

P. Leonard Chiti SJ,  
Florence Simbiri Jaoko  
LLM, Dr Daniel Legutke and  
Fr. Cleophas Lungu in front of  
the UN headquarters in  
Geneva

Florence Simbiri Jaoko, lawyer and longstanding Chair of the Kenya National Human Rights Commission explained that many conflicts in Africa are caused by the fact that one ethnic community feels superior to the other one. For this reason a reference to local traditions in rural communities within the UN resolutions does not per se contribute to a stronger commitment to human rights. P. Leonard Chiti SJ, JCTR director, underlined that the respective cultural context for human rights education is nevertheless important. In order to strengthen the protection of human dignity in traditional communities it is essential to carry on with their values and thus to contribute to a raise of awareness for human rights concerns at the grass roots.

### ***Workshop of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Human Rights Forum and the German Institute for Human Rights in Geneva***

“The mechanisms of the Human Rights Council – a way to justice” – This workshop held on 07/08 October 2013 in Geneva deliberated on the potentials of international organizations, especially of the UN Human Rights Council, to provide protection to human rights defenders on the local level. Starting from the target perspective of a more just world order it was discussed how the Human Rights Council’s work can be better linked with the development of the sustainability goals (post-2015 agenda) and how their implementation could be supported, if necessary. Mr Legutke was involved in the conception and the realization of the workshop.



Dr Matthes Buhbe, Director  
of the FES in Geneva and  
Rafendi Djamin, Indonesian  
representative of the  
ASEAN Human Rights  
Commission during the  
discussion

### ***Statement of the president of the JP Commission on the crisis in Syria***

When bishop Dr Stephan Ackermann was interviewed on 27 August by Domradio on the current situation in Syria, he opposed a military intervention. During a press conference on the occasion of the autumn plenary assembly of the German Bishops’ Conference on 25 September 2013 he gave expression to a careful optimism saying that the international negotiations on the use of chemical weapons in Syria represent a new chance for the political process. In view of the continued fighting and dying he at the same time warned of being satisfied too easily.

### ***Cooperation on migration, Conference "Without limits..."***

On 2 September 2013, Brot für die Welt, Südwind Institut, Medico, Caritas International and Justitia et Pax organized the conference "Without limits. Migration in a limited world". To this conference, Justitia et Pax invited Mrs Irene Fernandez from Malaysia, Director of the organization for the protection of migrants Tenaganita, and Mr Carlos Marentes from Mexico, Coordinator of the migrant Commission of La Via Campesina. With this conference JP continued its commitment to the issues of migrant labour, domestic workers and decent work, and it carried on its work started for the World Day of Prayer 2012 and the World Social Forum on Migration in November 2012.



*Dr Irene Fernandez, Tenaganita Malaysia (r) reports on the situation of domestic workers in Malaysia*

### ***JP Europe visiting Berlin***

From 20 – 24 September 2013, the Conference of the European Justice and Peace Commissions held its general assembly and an international workshop in Berlin. Dealing with a past burdened by violence and the consequences of dictatorship as a European challenge were the subject matters of the workshop which was held from 20 to 22 September. The participants visited relevant sites such as Sachsenhausen, Hohenschönhausen, Normannenstrasse and the foundations "Topographie des Terrors" and "Flucht, Vertreibung, Versöhnung". The workshop was finished with a meditation along the stations of the Cross from the execution site Plötzensee to Regina Martyrum. The workshop was accompanied by serious debates which underlined the practical significance of this subject matter for a mutual understanding and for an effective cooperation.

### ***General Assembly, Elections and Permanent Secretariat in Brussels***

The general assembly of the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions unanimously voted in favour of a permanent secretariat to be set up at the COMECE, the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community in Brussels. COMECE had agreed to take over the management of JP Europe for a three-year pilot phase. Stefan Lunte was entrusted with the task of the Secretary General. At the end of the pilot phase in 2016 a decision will be taken whether the structural cooperation shall be continued and under what conditions. This will mark the promising end of a longstanding discussion process as the conditions for the structural stabilization of JP Europe have been created.

The general assembly re-elected auxiliary bishop William Kenney president of JP Europe for a period of one year. Archbishop Hollerich from Luxemburg was elected president for the term 2014 – 2015. In addition, the general assembly elected Prof Ingeborg Gabriel (JP Austria) vice-president for the term 2013 – 2015 as well as a new ExCo for the next three years consisting of representatives from Malta, England, Czechia, Ukraine, Austria and Luxemburg.

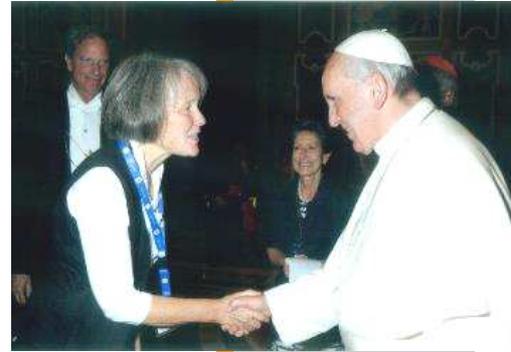
### ***Pontifical Council: Conference on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pacem in Terris***

International organisations and the universal common good as well as new challenges for peace represented the focus of the conference held from 2 to 4 October in Rome. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Pacem in Terris" provided the occasion to appreciate this encyclical of Pope John XXIII which was pioneering for the Church's social teaching. The debates were opened by greetings

of Olav Tveit, secretary general of the World Council of Churches, and of the Co-presidents of Pax Christi International, bishop Kevin Dowling and Ms Marie Dennis. Then followed reports from a church and a secular perspective on the experiences with regard to regional integration in Europe, Asia, Africa and the two Americas. Cardinal Etchegaray described the beginnings of the CCEE, the changes in and after 1989. Bishop Quevedo from the Philippines, representing FABC (Asian bishops' conferences), illustrated the often difficult human rights situation as well as the inter-religious tensions and dialogues.

SECAM and CELAM representatives gave reports which were contrasted with accounts from the AU and the OAS. Particularly impressive were Best Practices of church work for peace, e.g. a local church initiative for voluntary disarmament and reconciliation in Bogota, Colombia. (A lot of convincing for each pistol handed over and how easily further supplies arrive for instance from Germany!)

The highlight of the conference was the audience with Pope Francis on 3 October 2013, where he commented on the latest tragedy off the island of Lampedusa: "Disgrace for Europe!"



*Casel at the audience, Dr Giovannelli at the background*

### ***International workshop on dealing with a past burdened by violence in Burundi***



Visit to Buta, place of a massacre of students of a minor seminary

From 11 to 16 November 2013, the German Commission for Justice and Peace, together with AGEH and the Burundian Justice and Peace Commission, organized an international workshop on dealing with a past burdened by violence. Based on the bloody conflict in Burundi and its effects, the 40 participants from different countries from Africa, Latin America and Europe exchanged views on possibilities to contribute to reconciliation processes. During the workshop, the participants met victims, ex-combatants, civil society actors as well as government and opposition representatives.

The workshop helped the local Church to define more precisely the current challenges in dealing with a past burdened by violence and to develop further perspectives for action.

With this workshop the Catholic Church of Burundi gave an impressive witness of its efforts towards healing individual and social wounds.

### ***Publication "Human dignity – Impulses on the claim to validity of human rights"***

A documentation of the discussions and results achieved by the working group human dignity and human rights on the significance of human dignity will be published on 10 December, Human Rights Day, in issue no 127 of the series of papers titled "Human dignity – Impulses on the claim to validity of human rights".

### ***The Problem of religious freedom in Indonesia***

From 16 to 24 August 2013, Archbishop Dr Ludwig Schick and P. Prof Dr Johannes Müller SJ visited Indonesia to receive information on the situation of the Christians living there. The programme had been prepared and coordinated by Dr Legutke, Justitia et Pax. The journey provided an insight into the cultural diversity of the island state. The possibilities and limits of reli-

gious freedom for Christians and other religious minorities do vary greatly within the country.

The cultural and social openness found in single regions of Java like the Yogyakarta District, for example, contributes to the fact that the Christians living there can play an important role in public life.

This is not least shown by the fact that the largest national daily newspaper (Kompas, daily circulation of about 500.000) was founded and directed by Catholics and the members of the editorial team are mainly Catholics, too.

In other Javanese regions, like Bogor but also on the island of Sumatra the Sunni majority has increasingly exerted pressure on different Islamic groups and other minority religions for some years. Nevertheless one cannot speak of a persecution of Christians in Indonesia.



Members of the German delegation with staff of the Wahid Institute, an Islamic society institute in Jakarta

### ***Ecumenical report on religious freedom worldwide***

On 1 July 2013 the report on the situation of religious freedom for Christians worldwide was presented to the public in Berlin together with EKD. In this report the two major Churches in Germany present data and facts referring to the violation of the freedom of religion for Christians. In addition, it highlights the circumstances and conflicts which form the breeding ground for hostilities or even violence against Christians. So the Churches have contributed to strengthen the solidarity with the harassed Christians and to show perspectives for action to support the brothers and sisters in faith in their fight for being granted comprehensive religious freedom. The text is written in the form of a literature study which evaluates the relevant reports published by the different institutions and by the United Nations and takes further material into account which was developed from a human rights perspective.

### ***Fair working conditions worldwide: A topic for the coalition talks***

“Miserable housing conditions, withholding of wages and the exploitation of domestic workers and of skilled workers in the meat processing industry and on construction sites are no exotic evils in far-away countries but can also be found in front of our own doors. For this reason the coalition talks do also have to deal with decent work for all, especially for migrant workers and for precariously employed people”, said bishop Dr Stephan Ackermann, president of the Justice and Peace Commission, on the occasion of the World Day for Decent Work on 7 October.

He called on those responsible for the coalition talks to address the issue of fair working conditions during the talks. This includes the ratification of the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families, the establishment of cross-border social security systems and the introduction of living wages which must not be lowered by individual or collective agreements.

### ***GKKE Thursday Discussion on arms exports policy***

The subject of discussion at the GKKE Thursday Discussion on 6 June was “aspirations and reality of German arms export policy”. The question whether foreign-trade interests or principles of peace ethics determine the licensing procedures was discussed in an objective and yet also controversial way by representatives of the government, the parliament and the armaments industry. Especially the debate with Prof Adamowitsch, the director of the

Federation of German Security & Defence Industries, was marked by some sharpness.

### ***New evangelical GKKE president***

As of 1 October 2013, Prelate Dr Martin Dutzmann is the representative of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany and evangelical GKKE president.

### ***News from the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation (MKF):***

#### ***4<sup>th</sup> European Workshop in Auschwitz in August 2013***

From 11 to 16 August 2013, the 4<sup>th</sup> European workshop on dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence was held in Oswiecim. Participants in this year's workshop came from Poland, Ireland, Spain, Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Czechia, Albania and Germany. The workshop was particularly marked by the intense debates with the Russian participants. The differences in the culture of remembrance of the participants from Russia, Poland, the Baltic States and Ukraine proved to be particular conflicts of identity depending on the respective history of violence.

Fortunately the workshop succeeded in addressing these conflicts in an appropriate manner and in deepening the mutual understanding for the underlying wounds. Especially the participants from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania repeatedly underlined that they found encouragement and inspiration for their own work in the serious discussions during the workshop.



*At the Auschwitz memorial*

### ***Study day on dealing with the totalitarian heritage of Ukraine***



On the occasion of the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees a study day on dealing with the totalitarian heritage of Ukraine was held in Lemberg on 11 October 2013. On the premises of the former NKWD/Gestapo/KGB prison in Lonski Street the participants dealt with the present significance of the memory of the totalitarian heritage of Ukraine. It became obvious that the respective memories still have a politically explosive force. The restoration of sustainable social relations plays a central part in the democratic development of Ukraine and the development of a political culture which is interested in the common good.

*Common prayer at the execution wall of the former NKWD/Gestapo/KGB prison in Lemberg*

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