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*"Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made.
 Today you are alive in every creature
 in your risen glory.
 Praise be to you!"
 Laudato si`, Christian prayer in union with creation*

Spring meeting of the JP Commission on the Agenda 2030

Under the topic "sustainable life style and just economy", the Commission in its meeting on 26/27 February 2016 focused on the challenges and chances resulting from the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for the Church in Germany. Necessary changes in consumption and production, in mobility and life-style were discussed with Johannes Zurnieden, managing director of Phoenix Reisen GmbH, and the secretary general of the German Caritas Association Prof Dr Georg Cremer. These changes require a new way of thinking, a new view on contexts, a conversion of hearts, of behaviours and a transformation of structural framework conditions.

In implementing the Agenda 2030 in Germany, the Church should act in a coherent way: This refers not only to matters concerning the universal Church, environment or social ethics but also to issues of migration, Caritas or education. Credibility depends on the implementation of sustainable development goals within the respective institutions.

"Wonders of the World? Here they are!" This is the motto of a video competition which is to awaken the interest of young people for the Sustainable Development Goals and which will be launched by Bishop Ackermann during the *Katholikentag* in Leipzig.

Agenda 2030/Implementation in Germany

The process of reviewing the national sustainability strategy as the basis for the implementation of the SDG in Germany has started. The body in charge is the Federal Chancellery which is also responsible for the Sustainability Commission. Mrs Hagemann participated in the opening in Berlin on 24 October 2015 and in the penultimate regional conference in Bonn on 19 January 2016. The Federal Government will present a first report on the implementation of the Agenda 2030 to the UN until summer. Civil society discussions on the implementation are also in progress. The JP Commission is involved in this process via the working group "Agenda 2030" of VENRO and via the working group "development and economy" of the Human Rights Forum.

Decent work in the Agenda 2030- Watch Dog Goal 8

Concerning the implementation of the Agenda 2030 in Germany, the JP Commission will focus on Goal 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth". Kolping international, KAB, CAJ, Don Bosco Mondo and the JP Commission have joined forces in a 'Watch Dog'-Group in order to promote the goal of decent work in the sustainability strategy. The group also wants the discussion group of trade unions to deal more intensively with these questions.

The international group of Catholic-inspired organisations on 14 January met with the director of the ILO Department of Statistics Rafael Diez de Medina to discuss with him the development of indicators for Goal 8 of the Agenda 2030.



Cremer, Wallacher, Zurnieden and Kortmann (from left to right) at the meeting of the JP Commission on the Agenda 2030 held on 26/27 February 2016

Annual meeting of the diocesan committees 'Mission-Development-Peace' on Laudato si and Agenda 2030

The annual meeting in Freiburg from 21 to 23 January 2016 focused on the topic "the encyclical 'Laudato si' and the Agenda 2030 – strengthening the commitment to the One World". It became evident that the text and the content of the Agenda may well serve as reference for some of the current actions initiated in some dioceses. The campaigns launched for example by the dioceses of Speyer and Osnabrück refer to the Agenda 2030 as far as life-style, production and consumption patterns are concerned. Laudato si and the Agenda 2030 do not only provide reference points but also encourage to set priorities and to inspire new projects. This however requires making both documents much better known. The inner connection between the encyclical and the sustainability agenda was well identified by the participants.

BMZ Task Team 'Religion and Development'

At an international conference in Berlin on 17/18 February 2016, Federal Minister Müller presented the new strategy "Religion and Development" of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It provides a greater involvement of religion and religious players in development cooperation. At this stage, it cannot be predicted what will be the concrete adjustments to the policy of BMZ and of the international donors resulting from this. The JP Commission participates in the discussions as a member of the national task team of BMZ.

At the same time, BMZ presented the accompanying publication "Voices from Religions on Sustainable Development". One of the authors who describe development perspectives from a Christian view is JP president bishop Dr Ackermann.

Ecumenical pilgrimage "Geht doch!"

As part of the ecumenical pilgrimage, bishop Dr Ackermann together with Mrs Füllkrug-Weitzel held a prayer meeting "time is running out" in front of the UN climate secretariat in Bonn on 30 October 2015. The programme of this day also included a reception by the Mayor of Bonn, Ashok Shridharan, and a panel discussion on climate policy as a task of development policy hosted by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).

White Paper Federal Armed Forces

Following the deliberations at the Commission's autumn meeting in October 2015 with representatives of the Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg), the JP Commission has published a declaration called "Values and Interests – reflections on the foundations and priorities of German foreign and security policy" on the planned 2016 "White Paper on security policy and the future of the Bundeswehr (Federal Armed Forces)".

Statement on the fight against IS

On 4 December 2015, the JP president made a statement on the occasion of the vote of the German Bundestag on a German participation in the fight against IS. He underlined the necessity to put a stop to IS and to create the prerequisites for peace in Syria. He particularly emphasized the diplomatic efforts of the federal government to find a political solution for the Syria crisis. Bishop Dr Ackermann stressed the significance of Europe's unity in the fight against terror: "Strengthening European cooperation – if target-oriented even a military one – is a prerequisite for the demanded long-term capacity to act." Against this background the planned military involvement of the federal government is really understandable, he said.

Dialogue between Churches and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

The BMEL will publish a Green Paper on Agriculture at the end of 2016 and invites the Churches to participate in four events and to explain their view on the role of farmers, animal welfare, the future of agriculture and world food supplies. The first event was on 19 February 2016. Mrs Hagemann representing JP is involved in the preparations via the Catholic Liaison Office. Especially for the last event on world food supplies which is

scheduled for July 2016, it will be important to develop a concept together with representatives of the Catholic and Protestant Churches.

International Agrarian Dialogue on EU Policy



Excursion to Groentuin, RSA:
Partner of ECARP with their
local seed bank

The participants in the former EU Dialogue on Agrarian Issues from Zambia, Uganda and South Africa met for a workshop with the aim to better network their activities concerning the right to food and decent work in Southern Africa. The workshop was hosted by the East Cape Agricultural Research Project in Grahamstown, RSA from 7 to 12 March 2016 to develop strategies of a stakeholder dialogue with the European and African Union (EU, AU) and to discuss with international organisations such as FAO or ILO. The workshop included visits to groups of farm workers in citrus cultivation plants as well as visits to small-scale farms.

Plans for an Exposure on value-added chains

Value-added chains will be an important topic at this year's International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva and they will be dealt with by the German government during the G7/G20 summits which are scheduled for 2017 under German presidency. Cooperation with the human rights organisation PRAYAS and with SEWA developed from JP's focus on precarious working conditions and along the value-added chains. With its programmes PRAYAS supports decent work for internal migrants in various sectors of the Indian economy – from agricultural work to brick manufacturing. Together with SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) an exposure- and dialogue programme on the issue "challenge for the global value creation: Decent work in the informal economy – from home-based work to migrant work" is planned for February 2017.

Justice and Peace Europe, Concerted Action 2016

On Ash Wednesday Justice and Peace Europe started this year's concerted action: "Growing economic inequality and taxation".

The European Justice and Peace Commissions will support the new effort by the European Commission to harmonise corporate tax bases, to close tax havens and advocate the due transposition of an EU directive on the automatic exchange of tax rulings into national law by 1 January 2017. In addition, national governments shall be involved in the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) projects developed by the OECD. So JP Europe will contribute to reduce social injustice and to strengthen the social cohesion within and between European societies.

German-Polish exhibition on reconciliation

On 18 November 2015 the exhibition *Pojednanie/Versöhnung in Progress* was opened in Berlin (Kronprinzenpalais Unter den Linden) and in Wroclaw (town hall).

In Berlin the exhibition was shown until 16 December 2015, in Wroclaw until 16 January 2016. In addition, the exchange on the German context strengthened the mutual understanding of the parties concerned.

Against the background of the current tensions between Germany and Poland the exhibition was regarded in both countries as an encouraging example of a successful German-Polish cooperation.

Christine Hoffmann, Nicole
Grünewald, Gerald König



Opening of the exhibition:
Parliamentary Secretary Gill,
Archbishop Dr Schick,
Ambassador Dr Marganski,
Minister of State Grütters
MP, Apostolic Nuncio
Etorovic, Bishop Dr Kopiec,
Dr Lüer, Peter Weiß MP



Bishop Ackermann's trip to the United States and UN Side Event

From 18 to 24 October 2015, Bishop Ackermann in his capacity as JP President and as a member of the Commission for Church and Society in charge of abuse prevention made a trip to the United States, i.e. to Washington and New York. He had informative talks for example with Justice and Peace USA, the World Bank, UNDP and with relevant institutions of the UN on the Agenda 2030, on religion and development, human rights issues, on religious freedom and the responsibility to protect.

In a Side Event at the UN on 22 October on interreligious cooperation, Bishop Dr Stephan Ackermann, Prof Heiner Bielefeldt, Prof Amina Wadud and Prof An Na'im drew attention to the potential of religions to strengthen social coexistence. They so provided a counterpoint to the perception of religions and religious actors as parties responsible for causing problems. The UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion, Prof Bielefeldt had initiated the event with the aim to increase the Catholic Church's international visibility in matters of religious freedom.



Bishop Ackermann and Amina Wadud at the Side-Event in the UN headquarters

Event on Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples in Berlin on 26/27 November 2015

As a result of the activities of the working group human rights and cultural traditions, an international workshop was realized in Berlin on 26/27 November 2015 that focused on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIPS). The workshop contributed to deepen the understanding of the concerns of indigenous peoples and of the problems in implementing their human rights demands.

The perspectives of indigenous participants and of experts in this human right issue have shown that this declaration can provide an impetus to the improvement of human rights demands of particularly vulnerable groups.

GKKE executive committee, work schedule for 2016 to 2019

At its meeting on 18 January, the GKKE executive committee deliberated on plans for the next term of work from 2016 – 2019. One project is to establish an expert group on the „contribution of the Churches to peacebuilding and development“. Before setting up this expert group, there will be consultations to determine its objectives and criteria for the selection of countries. The GKKE expert group on cohesion will finish its work with a comment on the German raw materials policy and policy coherence for development. This comment is also relevant for the deliberations on the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights.

GKKE Arms Export Report 2015

This year's arms export report of the GKKE was presented in Berlin at the Federal Press Conference on 17 December 2015. GKKE demands to stop all arms exports to Saudi Arabia. In the first half of 2015, export licences to third countries again still accounted for nearly half of all German arms exports.

This year's expert discussion with members of parliament on arms export policy took place in Berlin on 23 February 2016. It was well attended, but again members of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group did not participate. One topic in the discussion was the new law on arms exports proposed by Federal Minister Gabriel.

GKKE EDP to strengthen health infrastructure in Tanzania

The Exposure and Dialogue Programme on “Pharmaceutical Training – Key to Building Health Sector Capacities in Tanzania” held from 31 January to 6 February 2016 provided the participants from the pharmaceutical industry, public institutions and church agencies an excellent opportunity to immerse in the everyday life of trainees.



(from right to left: Archbishop Ruwa'ichi, Shekalaghe (Pharmacy Council) and Prof Bakari (Tanzanian Health Ministry, CMO) and others during the dialogue workshop

In the following dialogue workshop with approx. 50 participants, Archbishop Ruwa'ichi OFM Cap, president of the health commission of the Tanzanian Bishops' Conference urged: „All persons concerned must engage in an urgently needed partnership so that the human right to health shall apply to everyone.“

Mrs Sagari Ramdas, Food Sovereignty Alliance, India, on food sovereignty, food security and human rights demands of indigenous peoples



Auxiliary bishop Ulrich Boom with trainees or hosts at the laboratory of Mwanza



The partners, church training institutions in Tanzania, enjoyed the broad support of the Tanzanian Health Ministry as well as of different stakeholders from Tanzania, Kenya and Germany for the nationwide implementation of the revised and modularized curricula.

JP at the Katholikentag in Leipzig

Justice and Peace will be represented with a tent at the „Kirchenmeile“ at the 100th German Katholikentag which will be held in Leipzig from 25 to 29 May 2016 under the motto „Look at the man!“ The traditional Justice and Peace reception by Bishop Dr Ackermann will be on Friday, 27 May 2016, beginning at 12.30 p.m.

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