

Plan of Action – Just Trade Agreements?

January 14, 2004

The churches and related organizations that gathered at Stony Point, New York, have committed themselves to the **Declaration for Just Trade in the Service of an Economy of Life** (January 2004) and have worked to develop this Plan of Action to guide collaborative ecumenical and denominational efforts. This Plan provides ideas and suggestions for actions that denominations and church agencies may initiate on their own or collaboratively on a national or tri-national basis. Some actions will focus on governmental, bilateral, regional and international trade policies and agreements; others suggest ways for individuals and church bodies to strengthen alternatives that bring us closer to the economy of God.

	Potential tri-national joint actions (& timeline)	What we hope to achieve	Potential joint actions in our own country (& timeline)	What we hope to achieve
Organizational	<p>A. Establish tri-national coordinating group to develop an overall plan and budget.</p> <p>B. Coordinating group to establish most effective communication methods and tools (e.g. create unique website domain, establish listserve), including continued outreach to denominations and agencies not present at the consultation.</p> <p>C. Consider annual meetings to develop common actions.</p>	<p>A. Follow-through with results from consultation.</p> <p>B. Effective bilingual communication; Strengthened cooperation amongst churches/ organizations in Mexico, the U.S. and Canada.</p> <p>C. Build momentum on collaborative actions.</p>	<p>Rotate meetings between three countries. Next coordinating group meeting to be held in Mexico</p>	<p>Greater understanding of issues and expanded participation.</p>
Policy Development	<p>A. Development of a Just Trade Declaration in Stony Point, New York in January 2004.</p>	<p>A Declaration with key theological and ethical issues about trade.</p>	<p>Further development of priority issues for each country by end of 2004.</p>	<p>Clear statement and moral stance on the issues.</p>
Policy Advocacy	<p>A. Develop sample letter to send to our respective governments – 2004.</p> <p>B. Determine challenges and develop a tri-national advocacy strategy on common issues for 2004-2005.</p> <p>C. Send tri-national delegations to national capitals to present Declaration and lobby government/ trade officials & meet with media.</p> <p>D. Facilitate the communication of such information from Hemispheric Social Alliance, etc.</p> <p>E. Select a multinational corporation for corporate accountability actions.</p>	<p>Creation of just trade policies and/or inclusion of enforceable social, economic and environmental standards & safeguards.</p> <p>E. Apply pressure on a pivotal corporate entity and raise awareness among our constituencies and general public of corporate influences on trade policy.</p>	<p>A. Letters to our governments on country-specific priority issues.</p> <p>B. Develop national strategy to work on common policies for 2004/ 2005. Annual meetings to develop and plan actions.</p> <p>C. Mexico: Elaborate agendas and actions for the country as a whole and for each denomination.</p> <p>D. U.S./Canada: Develop policy links to trade and food security issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights of Migrant Workers, • Year of Rice <p>E. Canada: Input into Canadian Foreign Policy Review, Fall 2004.</p>	<p>Creation of just trade policies and/or inclusion of enforceable social, economic and environmental standards & safeguards. Connect with civil society groups.</p>

(continued)	Potential tri-national joint actions (& timeline)	What we hope to achieve	Potential joint actions in our own country (& timeline)	What we hope to achieve
Linking with Ecumenical Groups and Other Coalitions	<p>A. Share Declaration and Action Plan with other regions.</p> <p>B. Connect/work with regional and global ecumenical bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2004 WARC General Council • 2006 WCC Assembly <p>C. Connect with broader civil society movements and alliances.</p> <p>D. Participate in People’s Global Week of Action, April 2005.</p> <p>E. Interventions through ecumenical team at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (April 2004 and 2005), UNCTAD 11 (June 2004) and UN Commission on Human Rights in March 2005.</p>	<p>Cooperation and demonstration of solidarity and common purpose.</p> <p>Strengthening of church, civil society and related multilateral efforts.</p>	<p>A. Connect/work with Latin American Council of Churches (CLAD).</p> <p>B. Coordinate with groups such as Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, Interfaith Working Group on Trade and Investment, Christian AID, etc.</p> <p>C. U.S. Consider collaboration with Study Circle Resource Center.</p> <p>D. Consider sister city, sister parish relationships</p>	<p>A. Accessing and building from existing resources and actions.</p> <p>B. Magnifying impact.</p> <p>C. Generate community dialogue resource on trade.</p> <p>D. Development of longer-term, grassroots, relational action on trade and globalization.</p>
Communications/ Media	<p>A. Joint press statement to be released shortly after January 14, 2004.</p> <p>B. Consider a symbolic action (such as Gandhi’s Salt March)</p> <p>C. Create Website to exchange basic information and give updates on related work.</p> <p>D. Establish listserv to post conference announcements and proceedings, resources from past global consultations, letters to decision-makers, educational materials, etc...</p>	<p>A. Provision of a sample press release that can be used as is, or modified.</p> <p>B. Prophetic action to raise consciousness.</p> <p>C. Provision of resources; keeping people informed.</p> <p>D. Effective communication</p>	<p>A. Joint ecumenical press releases.</p> <p>B. Develop draft press releases and letters to the editor for local use.</p>	<p>Greater awareness of issues by church and public.</p>
Resources	<p>A. Publish Declaration, selected proceedings and develop study guide based on January consultation and papers.</p> <p>B. Share worship resources.</p> <p>C. Promote and share information on more fairly traded products (in addition to coffee)</p> <p>D. Resources that interpret the connections and importance of responsible consumption.</p> <p>E. Development of Community Diagnostic “Tool Kit” to measure the impacts of trade and economic globalization.</p>	<p>Develop accessible resources that can be used or modified for our constituencies.</p>	<p>Develop generic educational resources on key trade advocacy issues for use by denominations and church agencies.</p>	<p>Save human and financial resources by producing resources that can be used or modified.</p>

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Education/ Outreach	<p>A. Facilitate speaking tours with representatives of three countries for churches and communities during 2004 and 2005.</p> <p>B. Coordinate delegations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Delegations to World Social Forum, Quito, July 25-30//04. • Religious Educators exposure tours <p>C. Develop programs to educate church and lay leaders on these issues.</p>	<p>A. Quantifiable increase in involvement by our constituency.</p> <p>B. Explore the impacts of free trade and the alternatives</p> <p>C. Leader formation that will carry forward into the future.</p>	<p>A. Coordinate and share costs of speaking tours with representatives of three countries for churches and communities during 2004 and 2005.</p> <p>B. Present Declaration to heads of Churches in Canada and the U.S.</p> <p>C. Promote Declaration through presentations and workshops in existing meetings.</p> <p>D. Develop programs to inform & engage leaders (clergy and lay) on these issues.</p>	<p>Greater effectiveness and resource savings made possible through tri-national coordination and collaboration.</p>

	Potential actions by denominations & church agencies on their own (with timelines)	What we hope to achieve	Detailed Timeline
Policy Development	<p>A. Prepare recommendations on trade issues for our respective denominations & organizations in 2004.</p> <p>B. Develop and strengthen engagement on corporate social accountability in cases where corporations are influencing trade policy.</p>	<p>Involve our constituency in reflecting on trade issues. Increase our appreciation of theological and ethical issues that churches believe should under gird trade policies. Policies strengthened.</p>	
Policy Advocacy	<p>A. Develop church-wide policies/practices that “live out” the values being promoted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective purchasing/procurement policies, support collective bargaining, living wage, and the right to unionize, etc. <p>B. Develop lifestyle integrity programs that help our constituencies foster just trade (e.g. Fair Trade purchasing; purchasing of non-sweatshop products, socially/ environmentally responsible investments, with particular attention on responsible consumption campaigns that create jobs.)</p> <p>C. Letters from denominations & organizations to government officials. Meetings of representatives from denominations & organizations with public officials.</p> <p>D. Work with corporate leaders to ensure corporate responsibility and accountability.</p>	<p>Implementation of practices, both individual and corporate that promote just trade and people-centered globalization.</p>	
Collaboration	<p>A. Disseminate and discuss the Declaration and Plan of Action with partner agencies and organizations.</p> <p>B. Seek to synchronize development work and trade policy advocacy.</p>	<p>A. Education of leaders & constituencies, and building consensus on action.</p> <p>B. More strategic development/trade work.</p>	
Communications/ Media	<p>A. Disseminate press releases in denominational news services and church networks in late January and February 2004.</p> <p>B. Develop draft press releases and letters to the editor about local involvement in these issues and campaigns.</p>	<p>More awareness of issues by church members</p>	
Resources	<p>A. Modify current fact sheets, study and action guides for our own denominations. Share resources across denominations and organizations in 2004 - 2005.</p> <p>B. Development of organizing methodology and guides to educate and mobilize people at the grassroots.</p> <p>C. Develop Lenten and Advent devotions/lectionary/action related to trade and economic globalization.</p>	<p>General access to and understanding of the issues.</p>	

(continued)	Potential actions by denominations & church agencies on their own (with timelines)	What we hope to achieve	Detailed Timeline
Education/ Outreach	<p>A. Each denomination/organization promote the key campaign issues with their constituency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document “stories” of the impact of trade on individuals and communities, and alternatives they propose. • Organize speaking tours to tell these stories of those negatively affected. • Support adult and youth study and action on issues. Strategy and timeline to be developed by each denomination & organization. • Curriculum development for Sunday School. • Include Declaration, related resources and links on their websites. <p>B. Outreach and strategize with women’s organizations/auxiliaries/divisions to take on trade and gender as a priority for education and action.</p> <p>C. Access or create networks to mobilize advocacy on these issues.</p> <p>D. Develop programs to educate church and lay leaders on these issues.</p> <p>E. Consider petition campaigns on specific trade agreements or a general petition.</p>	Short- and long-term education of our constituencies with a corresponding increase in involvement.	

Mexican Proposals and Commitments:

1. The delegates present in Stony Point proposed to act as the coordinating committee for Mexico.
2. Distribute Declaration to denominational communications offices and other media outlets.
3. Engage other churches through their local and national Pastorales Sociales.
4. Work with: Pastoral Urbana, Mision por la Fraternidad, seminaries so they can include educational materials and campaigns on the topic, together with the Comision de Pastoral Indigena, ALIET, Asoc. Teologica Ecumenica Mexico, CLAI at the Latin American level.
5. Find resources to do the work.
6. Invite the coordinating committee to meet in Mexico.

Websites (this is merely the beginning of a list; see Church World Service or PCUSA Just Trade sites for more complete listings):

Inter Faith Trade and Investment Working Group www.tradejusticeusa.org
 KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives www.kairoscanada.org
 Center Of Concern (International Gender and Trade Network) www.igtan.org

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) www.fao.org
 Presbyterian Church (USA) www.pcusa.org/trade
 Church World Service (USA) www.churchworldservice.org

Key Dates: Meetings/Events

January 2004, Continental Encounter and Struggle Against FTAA, Havana, Cuba
 April 2004 UN Commission on Sustainable Development, New York
 June 2004 WARC General Council, Accra, Ghana
 May 2004 Aboriginal Water Rights Forum, Canada
 (chiller@national.anglican.ca)

March 2005 UN Commission on Human Rights, Geneva
 (pnp@lutheranworld.org)
 April 2005 Global Day of Action for Trade Justice (mgordan@christian-aid.org)
 April 2005 UN Commission on Sustainable Development, New York
 February 2006 WCC Assembly, Porto Allegre