

The Budapest Ecumenical Youth Declaration *- Addressing Poverty, Wealth and Ecology*

In response to the call to raise the voice of young people on climate justice, we the young delegates of WCC-CEC consultation “Poverty, Wealth and Ecology”, representing young Christians in Europe through the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe, World Student Christian Federation Europe Region and SYNDESMOS, the World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth, present the following contribution to be taken into account in the process of the global ecumenical AGAPE consultation.

Our disharmony with God and Creation has led to a deeply complex global crisis, which calls for urgent action. Following up the statement by the participants of the WSCF-E and EYCE joint study session *Climate Justice Now!*, “as young Christians we acknowledge that we should be agents of change, living examples and multipliers of a sustainable way of life. Solidarity and social justice on local, national and Global levels should be manifested through education, prayer, lobbying and sharing our expertise”.

We call upon CEC, WCC and the Global ecumenical community to:

- Be the headliner and example in living according to the sufficient way of life, “principles of enough” and just treatment of all the Creation.
- Address the poverty and economic injustice on Global level as the main underlying factor of climate change. Embracing solidarity on a personal, local and worldwide level must be the first step in the Global transformation process.
- Initiate and strengthen the dialogue with the stakeholders through enabling and empowering the churches to bring the local realities, good practices and expertise into this dialogue, thus working for possible joint solutions.
- Approach education from a broader perspective by building a knowledgeable society for economic and social justice and solidarity, through formal, non-formal and informal education, i.e. school programmes, youth activities, volunteering, media, art, family, pastoral work etc. The churches have the capacity and role to play in shaping all of these sectors.
- Provide more opportunities for youth to participate, contribute and influence CEC’s work on poverty, wealth and ecology as young people and youth organisations have enthusiasm, possibilities and methodology to reach out to groups in society, which are not

always accessible for churches and official structures.

We as young people, being representatives of the churches on the grassroots level and in the local structures, commit ourselves to strive to fulfil these recommendations.

Declared in WCC-CEC consultation on "Poverty, Wealth and Ecology", Budapest, 12th of November 2010.