

Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples' Network Reference Group (EIPN)

Notes of the meeting of the Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples' Network Reference Group held at UCC Shalom Centre, Manila, from Sun 28 - Wed 31 May 2017.

Acknowledgement of Indigenous People The Moderator paid respect to the Indigenous People who have cared for this land from time immemorial.

Worship Miss Pya Malayao led the Opening Worship. Bishop Mark MacDonald led worship on the second day. Bishop Sofie Petersen led Closing Worship.

Time of Meeting 5.00pm 28 May - 12.30pm 31 May

Agenda **Adoption**

0517/RGD1

Resolved

That the EIPN Reference Group

Adopt the Order of Business as amended and printed subject to changes suggested by the Moderator and/or Programme Executive and alterations made by the Reference Group.

Present

Bishop Sofie Petersen, Bishop Mark MacDonald, Rev Solomon Rongpi, Mr Jerry Imbiri, Rev Tore Johnsen (Moderator), Pastor Lorna Pawis, Mr Evariste Ndikumana, Mrs Dina Ludena Cebrian, Miss Pya Malayao, Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams (WCC Executive Staff).

Alternates

Pastor Yohani Isqaqavut, Mr Juan Carloz Quispe, Mrs Betty Kobei, Dr Limatula Longumer, Miss Adi Mariana Waga.

Apologies

Rev Anita Philips, Mrs Sylvia Sparrok.

In attendance

Pastor Ray Minniecon (Ecumenical Indigenous Theological Network), Ms Maria Roysdatter Steinsvik (Ecumenical Indigenous Youth Network), Ms Beverly Longid (Local Indigenous Network).

Presentation

Unsustainable Development & Indigenous Rights¹ (B. Longid, in session 2)

0517/RGInfo

Summary

Key issues highlighted included Sustainable Development Goals SDGs 2010, Worsening Economic Crisis, Ecological Catastrophe, Militarism and Neo-Fascism, Globalisation and Neo-Liberalism.

IP Issues highlighted:

- (i) Plundering of IP land, territories, and resources denies IP the right to own, manage and control their own land and resources; and has dire impact on IP ways of life, on their ID and cultures, their language and their spirituality.
- (ii) Militarism and the violation of IP rights
- (iii) Institutionalised discrimination and racism
- (iv) IP Participation and representation
- (v) Government neglect
- (vi) Commodification of IP culture and beliefs

Ways forward:

- Nurture and develop partnerships. Resist dependence.
- Promote participation and democratic ownership
- Journey and pilgrimage with the poor

¹ Presentation distributed and tabled at meeting

- Item 1/17** **Updates from the IP regions**
 All meeting participants shared current developments and issues from their own regions.
- 0517/RGInfo Summary
 Issues common to Indigenous communities across the globe: Land-grabbing, land rights & native titles, extraction and mining, security, migration and forced displacement, militarization and occupation of IP communities, IP legal status (lack thereof) and identity, self-government/ self-determination & treaty, IP language, right to forests and natural resources, neo-liberalism/ free market economy & economic injustices, globalisation & new forms of colonisation, discrimination and racism, depopulation, ethnic conflict, religious conflict and religious fundamentalism, climate change and environmental catastrophes, rising sea levels, stolen generations/ residential schools aftermath, youth incarceration & suicide, water security, ocean and river rights, domestic violence and abuse, gender violence, education, poverty, employment, agriculture, female genital mutilation, pipelines at SR, protection for land/water/fish/animals, trafficking (sex trafficking targeting IP women), Reconciliation processes, drug and substance abuse/ addiction, sustainable long-term living in harmony with nature – hunting and fishing rights, reindeer herding, IP & church/ Christianity – leadership development/ theological education & ecumenical formation, reclaiming traditional customs and practices for sustainable living and for future generations, political killings/ murders/ violence...
- Item 2/17** **Reporting on IP Programme Activities 2015-2017**
 The RG received the report from the programme executive (PE) on WCC IP programme activities from Dec 2015 until May 2017.
- 0517/RGInfo IP related activities for the rest of 2017 was presented and discussed. Summary
- Mission from the Margins Solidarity Gathering, NZ, 26-30 Oct.
(IP reps on Planning Group: Lorna Pawis & Jerry Imbiri; Suggested themes: IP & Land, Human Trafficking, Self-determination, IP on Sustainable Development).
 - EIPN Reference Group Skype meeting, 4 Oct 2-4pm Geneva time.
 - Ecumenical Response to Racism (Planning Group) 6 or 9 Oct.
 - Ecumenical Indigenous Youth Network (Planning Group) 18-20 Sept.
 - Additional ecumenical IP activities: Circumpolar Conference, Alaska, Oct-Nov (Bishop Mark) & CBCNEI on Climate Refugees & IP, 4-6 Sept, Nagaland (Rev Solomon), CoP22 Nov Bonn.
- Item 3/17** **Funding and financial concerns**
 0517/RGD2 Resolved
 To defer the financial and budget discussion to the next meeting of EIPN Reference Group.
- Item 4/17** **IP Programme & Strategic Plan 2018-2021**
 0517/RGInfo The following IP related programmatic activities were included in the 2018 plans.
- Ecumenical Indigenous Youth Pre-conference, 5-7 March, Arusha Tanzania.
(Possible theme suggested: Translating the Word, Transforming the World).
 - World Mission Conference (Plenary, Worship/Bible Studies, Warshas, Sokoni) 8-13 March, Arusha Tanzania.
 - EIPN Reference Group Meeting, June, tbc.
 - IP Reconciliation Conference (Incorp. WCC 70th Anniversary Celebrations), June-Aug, Tonga (alternative: Tahiti).
 - MfM Solidarity Gathering, Peru, early Oct (after 4th).
 - IP Spirituality & Theology Consultation, Bolivia, late Nov.
 - UN PFII, April-May, New York. (Possible IP Youth focus here as well).
 - Additional ecumenical IP activities: Ecumenical solidarity visit to Iraq-Kurdistan (tbc), IP Theological Education and Ecumenical Formation Intensive (tbc).

The discussion of plans for 2019 onwards was deferred to the next meeting.

Item 5/17

0517/RGInfo

WCC World Mission Conference & IP Pre-Conference 2018

The RG was introduced to the profile of the WCC World Mission Conference in Arusha 8-13 March 2018, and discussed IP presence, input and impact in relation to the conference.

Summary

- Plenaries – Names and short bios of compelling and articulate Indigenous speakers to be emailed to the Programme Executive as soon as possible;
- Workshops/ Warshas – Possible workshop themes suggested included climate change & migration, stolen generations: colonisation and human trafficking, commercialisation of earth, security/ militarism and the impact on women and children (who is the real terrorist?), life in all its fullness: food and water security, land rights/ exploitation/ mining/ green energy on IP land, Indigenous faith: inter religious dialogue and inter faith relations, Indigenous culture/ID/ Language and urbanisation, Indigenous land, healing & reconciliation. Again names and bios of workshop leaders to be emailed to the Programme Executive asap. Each workshop should work towards a concluding statement to add to the outcome declaration of the whole conference;
- Sokoni/ Marketplace – Programme Executive to advise.
- IP Pre-conference – see next session.

· Ecumenical Indigenous Youth Pre-conference, 5-7 March, Arusha Tanzania.
(Possible theme suggested: Translating the Word, Transforming the World).

Item 6/17

0517/RGD4

EIPN Reference Group MattersResolved

Based on its terms of reference, the RG discussed procedures regarding public statements / public communication; internal communication among the RG members and with the programme executive; and regularity, forms and strategic use of RG meetings.

Based on points of agreement / convergence in the discussion, procedures are proposed in written form and shared among the RG group and the PE for final agreement. Tbc.

Item 7/17

0517/RGD3

Report/ Statement to WCC Executive CommitteeResolved

- To draft an EIPN Reference Group meeting report/statement, with the help of two Indigenous theological listeners at the Manila meeting, to be presented to the WCC ExCom June meeting in Bossey;
- To receive the draft report/statement from the theological listeners and to ask the Programme Executive to refine the document and finalise it with the EIPN Reference Group electronically as soon as possible after Manila, mindful that the document must be received by the WCC ExCom in a timely fashion. (The doc was subsequently agreed to by the whole group by email, and was forwarded to the WCC ExCom.)

Item 8/17**Mission from the Margins Solidarity Gathering, Oct 2017**Resolved

The RG appointed Lorna Pawis & Jerry Imbiri as IP reps on the Mission from the Margins Planning Group. Suggested themes: IP & Land, Human Trafficking, Self-determination, IP on Sustainable Development.

Item 9/17**Strategies for strengthening the regional network(s)**

The RG discussed strategies for strengthening the regional networks.

Resolved

Opportunity for defining regional meetings as official events under the global EIPN umbrella should be provided. A mechanism for applying, including appropriate criteria, needs to be established before the regional networks can be invited to use this opportunity. Tbc.

Item 10/17 Future RG meetings

Next RG meetings:

- Skype Wed 4 October 2017, 2-4pm Geneva time.
- Face-to-face, June 2018 venue tbc.

Item 11/17 Mindanao Martial Law Statement

0517/RGD5

Resolved

- (i) To endorse a public statement in Manila issued by Katribu on the situation of martial law in Mindanao on behalf of the EIPN Reference Group and networks;
- (ii) To release the statement publicly and amongst Indigenous networks, ecumenical partners, member churches, NGOs and other civil society organisations as soon as it is drafted and agreed by the EIPN Reference Group;
- (iii) To seek the endorsement of the WCC via the Executive Committee June meeting in Bossey.