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Resolution ACWW 25th. Triennial Worldconference 2007

1. Peace, no war!

We urge ACWW and its member organisations to commit themselves in active lobbying the UN and national governments not to recur to weapons and violence as means to resolve disagreements, but to prevent armed conflicts by diplomacy and mutual tolerance and other routes to create lasting justice and peace.

Whilst we are aware of the dangers of international terrorism, and share the view that weapons of mass destruction should disappear worldwide, we also know that war causes dislocation and destruction of communities, trauma, suffering and death. We are especially concerned that, in many conflicts, parties are using religion and moral values to justify war and violence.

2. Water and poverty

Water is the key to life and a catalyst for development. There can be no solution to water issues without tackling agriculture and poverty. Women's empowerment is essential to poverty eradication and environmental regradation.

Therefore be it resolved that ACWW and their member organisations urge the UN and their national governments to create a new culture: the internationally agreed principles of Integrated Water Resources Management- including sanitation, access to safe drinking water and water for food and ecosystems based on cooperation with all stakeholders .

Resolutie 3

Be it resolved that ACWW and their member organisations urge the UN and their national, regional and local governments to implement immediately their international commitments to women's rights and gender equity in relation to water and sanitation.

For some 30 years, international and UN global conferences have repeatedly recognized that effective sustainable water resources management depends on engaging women at all levels in decision-making and implementation.

(CEDAW 1979, Dublin Resolution on Water for Life Decade(1992);Johannesburg Plan of Implementation(2002);13th session of the UN Commission of Sustainable Development Outcome Document(2005).

The United Nations General Comment 15 to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states: "The human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity. It is a prerequisite for a realization of other human rights."(2002) However, women have often been denied their human right to water and are continually excluded from key decision-making roles, which led to environmental destruction, deterioration of human health, and the feminization of poverty.

4. Energy for the future

It be it resolved that ACWW and their member organisations urge the UN and their national governments to include energy in all (national) development strategies, to invest in modern and clean energy.

For two billion people across the developing world, the quest for energy is a daily struggle. People have no electricity to light their homes or gas to prepare a hot meal. Women and children spend hours gathering wood, animal dung or crop residues. This takes precious time and precious lives: the indoor polluting caused by cooking with traditional fuels causes respiratory infections, the world's greatest child killer. Energy deficiency also slows down the economy and the society at large.

The current energy insecurity is a matter for concern for the rich countries. For them it should not be too difficult to reduce energy consumption. For poor countries however, it is the difference between life and death. For the 2 billion poor without modern energy there is an energy crisis. Investments to fight poverty are sorely lacking, especially in the rural areas. However in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an energy target is not included.

We hope you will take notice of our above mentioned points.

Kind regards,

Mrs. E. Blom
Chair ZijActief Nederland

Mrs. L. van Zanten
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