

Food Security and Energy Supply between Self-Interest and Global Justice

International Experts Dialogue Conference
3 and 4 April 2009, Lusaka, Zambia

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Preface

Hunger and „the problem of food insecurity“ can only be eradicated by „eliminating the structural causes that give rise to it and promoting the agricultural development of poorer countries... This needs to be accomplished with the involvement of local communities in choices and decisions that affect the use of agricultural land.“ (CiV 27) In his encyclical letter *Caritas in Veritate* (CiV) Pope Benedict XVI. describes a context the German Commission for Justice and Peace has incorporated into her work for some years already.

In December 2005, the German Commission for Justice and Peace published a position paper on „Agricultural trade as a test case for fair world trade conditions“ together with the Katholische Landvolkbewegung (Catholic Rural Peoples Movement) and the Katholische Landjugendbewegung (Catholic Rural Youth Association). The paper deals with the problems of creating a fair world agrarian trade, that does not play the interests of small farmers in the north off against those in the south, but that underlines the general validity of the concepts of food sovereignty, of a sustainable rural development and a multifunctional agriculture.

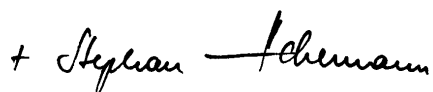
The political dialogue on agricultural politics and agrarian trade cannot remain on a national level. The issues of food security and sustainable energy supply have to be considered in light of the human right to food that has to point the way for all people in the world. There should be a dialogue on an international level in order to include the experiences made by partners in the agrarian and poor countries. This is the only way to find joint solutions for a sustainable and beneficial agriculture.

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) in Zambia, the Caritas Kasanaensis and the Rukararwe Partnership Workshop for Rural Development (RPWRD) in Uganda are partners with the same kind of interests feeling obliged to combat the causes for hunger and poverty and to find the necessary solutions. They helped to organize an Exposure- and Dialogue Programme which made it possible to get an insight into the real life of small farmers and their families. In addition, a scientific and political discourse with representatives from the government, agriculture and agrarian industry took place during an international conference that was held from 3rd to 4th April 2009 in Lusaka. The discussions focussed on the people whose living conditions and future perspectives shall be improved by political decisions and economic activities.

Pope Benedict XVI. strengthened this orientation in his message to the Director General of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (F.A.O.) on the occasion of the World Food Day on October 16th, 2009: „Experience shows that even advanced technical solutions lack efficiency if they do not put the person first and foremost, who comes first and who, in his or her spiritual and physical dimensions, is the alpha and the omega of all activity.“

The following documentation of the international conference „Food Security and Energy Supply between Self-Interest and Global Justice“ portrays the joint preparatory work of the partner organizations. It is a compilation of individual contributions and the results of the discussions. They should serve as a basis to deepen particular issues and to discuss them with more people, e.g. from the agrarian industry, to further strengthen the awareness of the responsibility for future generations. This is what the German Commission for Justice and Peace has decided to do during the working period 2009 until 2014, together with its partners here and there.

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