

The Anglican Alliance – *Development, Relief and Advocacy*

Mandate for action

Setting up The Anglican Alliance – Development, Relief and Advocacy: a brief history

The vision for The Anglican Alliance – *Development, Relief and Advocacy* began to take shape at the 2008 Lambeth Conference with a recommendation to establish a new way for Anglicans to work together globally for development, relief, and advocacy. This recommendation reflected the evident urgency that bishops attached to combating the scandal of poverty and their recognition that the effective way of doing so required concerted and coordinated Communion action. This recommendation has greater urgency today than ever before – the recent global financial crisis has exacerbated in many parts of the Communion a pre-existing socio-economic crisis marked by widespread poverty, under-employment, growth in inequality and difficult social conditions.

From early 2009 to the appointment of the first Director of The Anglican Alliance in late 2010 a consultative process was undertaken. This started with a wide-ranging consultation of development practitioners from across the Communion to consider and assess existing development and relief practices. Following this consultation a Steering Committee was given the task of giving shape and meaning to the Lambeth Conference recommendation. They drew up the first drafts of this document that has been refined through a process of wide consultation (every Province, Anglican Communion Network, Development and Mission Agency and some of ecumenical partners were invited to participate) and a further face-to-face meeting in July 2010.

Also, during this period the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Primates' Meeting and The Standing Committee monitored the development of the Alliance and gave their support to what was emerging. These were formalised in two resolutions passed by the Anglican Consultative Council at its 14th gathering in Kingston, Jamaica in May 2009. [See Note 1]

The Anglican Alliance – *Development, Relief and Advocacy* recognises that the Anglican Communion represents the third largest Christian grouping in the world, with structures that reach from the most remote village to the highest echelons of government, but that we lack an adequate and appropriate mechanism to work together on development, relief and advocacy. Moreover, the context in which we do this work has now radically changed with a proliferation of non-governmental organisations making the field of development intensely more complex.

Our Vision

The Anglican Alliance – *Development, Relief and Advocacy* vision is grounded in, and shaped by, our understanding of God's integral and holistic mission as expressed through the Anglican Communion's Marks of Mission. We believe that we should be proclaiming the Good News of God's Kingdom not only by word but also through our response to human need by loving service; by seeking to transform unjust structures of society; and striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. As the Gospel is good news to all, especially the poor, the Alliance seeks to work towards a world rid of poverty and injustice where all live in

just and sustainable relationships with each other and all of God's creation.

Our Purpose

The Anglican Alliance – *Development, Relief and Advocacy* brings together Anglican churches, relief and development agencies and Anglican Communion Networks. It bears witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God by working in partnership with others to overcome poverty, inequality and injustice in all parts of the world through prayer, relief, development and advocacy. The Alliance cherishes its partnerships, within the Anglican Communion, with ecumenical bodies and with others who share a common vision for justice and peace among all people. It will seek to add value to and coordinate more effectively what is already happening in terms of development, relief and advocacy across the Communion.

Our Faith Basis

The Anglican Alliance – *Development, Relief and Advocacy* is grounded in a common faith and understanding that God's mission is holistic and its orientation is towards the redemption of the whole of creation. It reflects in its work God's unconditional love for all and the dignity of every human person by working with all groups of people based upon human need and in a way that does not manipulate or take advantage of people's vulnerability. For The Anglican Alliance the Gospel is not just the proclamation of individual redemption and renewal, but also the redemption and renewal of society under the Reign of God. It is the ending of injustice and the restoration of right relationships with God, between human beings and between humanity and creation. Understanding that mission goes out from God and is never our own invention or choice means we are called to serve God's mission by expressing the good news through our actions in the service of and in partnership with others.

Our Modes of Action

The work of The Anglican Alliance – *Development, Relief and Advocacy* will be shaped by and developed within the context of each region across the Communion. It will do this initially in the following ways with the detailed activities being decided at regional consultations:

Development through:

- *Encouraging best practice* – by promoting shared values, mutual accountability and high quality development work amongst its participants;
- *Coordinating communication* that enhances the visibility of the development work of the Anglican Communion and shares information between participants for mutual support and learning;
- *Capacity building* by helping to develop strategies to address capacity and resource issues for Anglicans working in relief and development;

Relief by developing a mechanism for determining an appropriate and collaborative response to emergencies facing areas in the Communion based on lessons learnt from past experiences.

Advocacy by identifying key advocacy themes and offering opportunities, support and the provision of capacity building for participants and other ecumenical stakeholders to work collaboratively and strategically together.

The Alliance will also map out the resources and strengths of what is already happening in order to identify strengths and gaps across the Communion.

Finally, it will encourage theological reflection and mutual learning in all these areas by supporting opportunities where participants can discuss, share analyses and reflect theologically on development issues.

Our objectives

The Anglican Alliance – *Development, Relief and Advocacy* will seek to:

- Coordinate better both regionally and globally what is already happening in these the areas of development, relief and advocacy;
- Provide opportunities for mutual support, learning and development of our activities at all levels of operation;
- Communicate the best practice undertaken by Alliance participants across the Communion;
- Add value to and build on work undertaken by any one participant by encouraging maximum collaboration of all participants.
- Enhance visibility of the Anglican Communion’s response to challenges that affect our world today.

Governance

The Anglican Alliance – *Development, Relief and Advocacy* will be managed by an Interim Steering Group made up of those who have participated in shaping its vision, and will be reviewed after 2-3 years in 2013-14. The Interim Steering Group will be supported by a small secretariat headed by the Alliance’s Director. The invitation to participate in the Interim Steering Group will be issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, and individual participation in this Group will be with the consent of the respective primates of the relevant Anglican Communion province.

There will also be a small Reference Group appointed from the Interim Steering Group, which will provide oversight to the Secretariat in between the meetings of the Interim Steering Group.

Participation

Participation in the wider activities of The Anglican Alliance – *Development, Relief and Advocacy* will be undertaken in line with its ethos as outlined in the Ethos Statement [See Note 2]. Participation will be broad and diverse, with an open invitation based on interest and experience in the issues and will be open to any who share the vision and aspirations shared in this document. Above all it is recognised that the Alliance exists to enable the broadest possible grassroots participation.

With this in mind the Alliance will operate through facilitators working regionally, programmatically and within different language groups across the Communion. There will also be a commitment on the part of those participating to seek to enhance the quality of all we do together.

Funding

As a key initiative within the Communion The Anglican Alliance – *Development, Relief and Advocacy* has secured funding for the first phase of its life from the Lambeth Partners. This will enable an initial work plan to be implemented and also develop a secure long term funding.

Notes

1. Resolutions passed by ACC14, May 2009

Resolution 14.03: Anglican Relief and Development Alliance (Mission)

The Anglican Consultative Council:

- a. acknowledges the request from the Bishops at the 2008 Lambeth Conference to enhance a more collaborative approach to existing relief, development and advocacy activities in the Anglican Communion, and the support for this initiative from the Primates' meeting in Alexandria in February 2009,
- b. welcomes and receives the report from the Anglican Relief and Development Consultation in January 2009;
- c. affirms the recommendation to form an alliance of Anglican relief and development agencies to improve co-ordination in development, relief and advocacy work across the Communion, and to share experiences of best practice;
- d. encourages the steering group, established after the January 2009 Consultation, with the Anglican Communion Office and Lambeth Palace, to advance this recommendation, seeking the widest Communion participation.

Resolution 14.04: Local efforts in Relief and Development (Mission)

The Anglican Consultative Council asks the Anglican Communion Office to investigate means by which relief and development initiatives at local level, in congregations, dioceses, provinces and other groups across the Communion might be encouraged and strengthened.

2. Ethos - working document

This document produced during the July 2010 Consultation by a small work group and is still in process of refinement. It therefore needs to be treated as a 'work in progress' but is placed in this document to give substance to the section on participation.

Elements for ethos of the Alliance

Preamble:

- Framework of the marks of mission (mission to be understood holistically)
- Witnessing, relief and development are part of God's mission;
- Faith cannot be a condition for or expectation of relief or development work;
- Respect for the inherent dignity of human dignity;
- Strengths of the partners are to be affirmed and enhanced;
- Recognition that creation is a web of interdependent relationships and that we are mutually responsible for them;
- Recognition that trust needs to be earned through integrity, transparency and accountability;

Promotes good stewardship by encouraging participants to develop a code of conduct that enhances their accountability and effectiveness;

Encourages the participants to reflect theologically on their work and partnerships with a view to establishing a faith-based framework for their programmes and relationships;

Commits to learning from each and other and their partners and to incorporating the lessons into their practices;

Embraces cultural diversity as a source of mutual enrichment;

Commits to relief and development partnerships and activities that do not discriminate for reasons due to age, birth, religion, sex, disability, social or other status (ICCPR language + disability)

Tensions:

- Certain cultural practices that are considered unacceptable/harmful in other practices
- Justification of discrimination based on sexual orientation
- Non-violence