BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE

NETWORKING THE BAPTIST FAMILY TO IMPACT THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

BWA General Council Resolution 2024.1

WORLD HUNGER

The Baptist World Alliance General Council, meeting in Lagos, Nigeria, July 7-12, 2024:

AFFIRMS as Christians, we are called to demonstrate our love for God by loving our neighbors, an ethic echoed throughout the scriptures (Leviticus 19:18, 34; Matthew 22:36-40, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:25-37; Romans 15:2; James 2:8). We also believe God cares for those who are vulnerable (Deuteronomy 10:18; Psalm 68:5; Psalm 146:9) and urges us to do the same (Exodus 22:22; 23:6; Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 15:7, 11; Jeremiah 22:3; Matthew 25:35).

ACKNOWLEDGES current estimates that around 700 million people in the world[1]—including more than 23 million Baptists—are affected by hunger, increasing in recent years due to global systemic issues like poverty, economic injustice, personal and corporate greed, climate change, war, and racial and gender inequality.

RECALLS that BWA General Council Resolution 1979.1 identified the scourge of world hunger as many of the world's peoples are threatened by starvation due to famine, war, and natural disaster. We also recall that since 1905 the BWA has spoken up for human rights and freedom and against manifestations of racially or religiously inspired injustice by adopting over 60 resolutions or statements.

UNDERSTANDS our human family experiences hunger, poverty, and interrelated issues in a variety of ways, requiring contextual awareness to love and serve one another.

RECOGNIZES addressing structural and systemic changes are necessary to eliminate hunger and poverty disparities. This includes developing, prioritizing, and proactively implementing solidarity and capacity building programs with local governments, policy makers, entrepreneurs, and farmers to create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

STANDS with Indigenous peoples and other marginalized communities in safeguarding their lands, forests, and resources from illegal or corrupt acquisition by governments and multinational corporations (BWA General Council Resolution 2023.1).

ADVOCATES for and with peoples who have been historically colonized as they pursue the development of a social, economic, cultural, and political future that erases poverty and hunger.

URGES churches, unions, and other institutions to identify ways to lament, repent, reconcile, and transform individuals and structures, speak out against all forms of prejudice, and engage in theological reflection, dialogue, and advocacy concerning ending hunger and poverty throughout the globe.

RECOMMENDS Baptists study the annual BWA Baptist Vulnerability Index to support our global family living in the most vulnerable and challenging countries in the world as defined by hunger, livelihood, violent conflict, and religious freedom challenges.

SUPPORTS Baptist World Aid and Baptist World Alliance Forum for Aid and Development as they collaborate and facilitate with Baptists around the globe in addressing issues of world hunger and poverty.

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[1] "State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World," 2023, https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/a69f5540-6ee7-43f4-a8ef-9eb7b3e7b677/content/cc3017en.html.

Approved by the General Council (Thursday, July 11, 2024)