



## AFRICA EUROPE FAITH AND JUSTICE NETWORK RESEAU FOI ET JUSTICE AFRIQUE EUROPE

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AFRICA EUROPE FAITH AND JUSTICE NETWORK (AEFJN) is a Faith-based International Network present in AFRICA and in EUROPE. Established in 1988, AEFJN promotes economic justice between the European Union and sub-Saharan Africa so that the poor of Africa may look forward to a better future.

### The parts of AEFJN Network

#### The secretariat



The AEFJN International Secretariat is based in Brussels, where most European Institutions are placed. The secretariat team is international and has a variety of backgrounds, preparation and experience. Most of them have had a working experience on the African continent. The Secretariat staff coordinates the advocacy activities of the Antennae lobbies the European Institutions on issues affecting Africa.

#### The Antennae

The AEFJN ANTENNAE (national groups) create awareness among Christians and religious, do advocacy and lobby towards the national governments, on issues relevant to Africa.

In the past AEFJN had 12 Antennae: Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom. But today due to demographic shift; many of them are closing especially in Europe and others are being created in Africa.



There are signs of hope that Africa is coming up in the advocacy field with antennae in Cameroon, Kenya, Central African Republic, Nigeria and Mozambique.

### **The member congregations**

Nearly fifty Catholic Religious or Missionary Institutes present in Africa and Europe (including the Daughters of Mary and Joseph) are AEFJN members. Each congregation chooses a contact person for the network. The Contact Person represents the congregation at annual AEFJN General Assembly.

Many AEFJN's members have experience of the reality of life in Africa and maintain close links with the people there too. Their Christian faith brings a deep respect for each and every human being and a wish to support people who do not yet enjoy their fair share of the resources of creation.

### **The Executive**



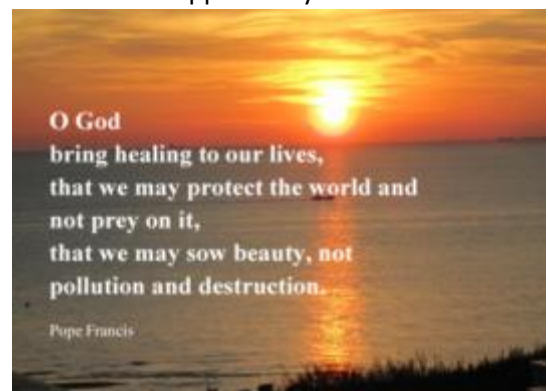
Elected by the General Assembly they are the leadership of the Network and are chosen from different Congregations.

### **AEFJN Vision**

A world where all can enjoy their fair share of the gifts of creation and have the opportunity to fulfill their God-given potential; A culture where people, especially the poor, are at the heart of economic and social policy. An Africa that can hold its own place in its relations with other world powers.

### **AEFJN Mission**

Motivated by our Christian faith and enriched by the Social Teaching of the Church, we aim to be alert wherever political decisions concerning economic relations between Africa and Europe are being made. As citizens of our own countries and of the European Union, we lobby decision-makers at a national level through our 'Antenna' groups and, at European level, through the International Secretariat in Brussels. Networking through our communities and churches we join with other Church and civil society groups at national and international level we strive to advance the common cause for a respectful, compassionate and just world.



## AEFJN themes of advocacy

### 1. FOOD SOVEREIGNTY (Land grabbing + Food cultures+ Food system)

AEFJN agrees with the World Food summit that, “Food Security exists when all peoples, at all times have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences”.



Small holder Farmers (SHF) deliver on 80% of the food consumed worldwide, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. They hold the fortress to African food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture as well the job creation engine for Africa’s young and growing population. Food justice for Africa demands that SHFs are supported. Africa wants to be listened out of hunger and not food aid.

Supporting the SHFs is a political choice and the future of a sustainable food system is the outcome of our political choices of today. Modernization of agriculture is the logic of industrial agri-business conglomerate. It means moving out labor and bringing in capital and making profit. It is an unsustainable system of agriculture that puts the entire ecosystem at risk.

All must resist the propaganda of industrial agri-business conglomerate that they can create better and safer food through their Genetically Modified (GM) food. More of the same thing is not helpful to our health and the environment. AEFJN stands rather in support of agro-ecology.

AEFJN advocates for food system and culture approach to the formulation of agricultural policies in the different bilateral/multilateral Investments treaties, African Union, World trade organization and the European Union.

### 2. CORPORATE JUSTICE

AEFJN supports the negotiations of the UN binding treaty on Business and Human Rights in the hope that it will promote a sustainable extraction of Africa’s natural resources, respectful of the ecological best practices and Human Rights standards and extraterritorial obligations of business corporations.

Natural resource extrativism is a major contributor to ecological destruction and climate change. It is rooted in global consumption pattern that calls our ethical values into question. AEFJN is committed to the message of Paris agreement favouring the transition toward a model of economic development with low or zero carbon



consumption while encouraging solidarity with the most vulnerable populations.

AEFJN advocates for the implementation of voluntary guidelines on Conflicts Minerals and advocate for a legally binding legislation not only for 3T (tin, tungsten, tantalum) and gold but for all minerals, looking for innovative ways of supporting artisanal miners through accompanying measures.

#### **FAITH-BASED APPROACH:**

AEFJN is inspired by the gospel values to stand in solidarity with the peoples of Africa especially farmers and mining host communities whose natural resources and ecosystem are plundered and yet live with grinding poverty. AEFJN questions the economics of extractivism that is packaged and forced on Africa as development programs. The natural resources of Africa must be responsibly and sustainably sourced to benefit them while resisting the logic of consumerism and the throw away culture that fuels extractivism.



#### **INTERFAITH & AFRICAN DRIVEN:**

AEFJN is not only a bridge linking Africa and Europe but provides the space for the Church, Grass Root Social Movements, Civil Society actors and other stakeholders in Africa to forge collaborative partnerships. The conviction that it is time for Africa to stand up for herself and take her own future in her hands motivates our orientation. AEFJN finds great inspiration in the African proverb, “*when spiders unite their webs, they tie a lion*”.

To learn more about the network and the different themes; visit AEFJN website and subscribe to the monthly newsletter on: <http://aefjn.org/en>. Or send an email on: [aefjn@aefjn.org](mailto:aefjn@aefjn.org)