

Promoting the Right to Water

Declaration of the General Assembly 2018

Drawing on the inputs and discussions of the International Workshop “Water: Source of Life – Human right and Europe’s responsibility” and inspired by Pope Francis’ encyclical letter Laudato Si’ the General Assembly of Justice and Peace Europe adopted the following conclusions, recommendations and commitments:

1) Justice and Peace Europe encourages its member commissions to engage themselves for the formal recognition of the right to water and to attract the attention of their bishops’ conference to the issue. Furthermore, European Justice and Peace commissions should join existing alliances and networks, which support initiatives and educational programs to strengthen the personal responsibility for maintaining or re-establishing water sustainability. They should also co-operate with existing water-related advocacy initiatives.

2) The General Assembly asks the Executive Committee and general secretariat of Justice and Peace Europe to accompany and monitor water related policies at the European level, including the reduction of micro plastics. Justice and Peace Europe - and its member commissions in contacts with their respective national governments and members of the European Parliament - should support and argue for a quick adoption of the European Commission proposal for a ban of single-use plastic items and for the revision of the drinking water directive, which sets new drinking water quality standards and includes measures to improve the right to access clean water for all. Justice and Peace Europe should also contribute to the public consultation on the water framework directive. In the framework of the Council of Europe Justice and Peace Europe will promote and support the implementation and development of norms and instruments in relation to the right to water.

3) The General Assembly recalls the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations, and especially Goal 6 to “ensure access to water and sanitation for all” and its eight specific targets. In line with its 2015 Copenhagen declaration in support of the Sustainable Development Goals Justice and Peace Europe will continue to promote and support all efforts to achieve and these goals and targets.

4) Justice and Peace Europe invites its member commissions to the *Laudato Si’* based conference on “the common good and our common sea” it will co-organise together with the diocese of Copenhagen next year in May in Copenhagen.