

# AFRICA ACTION SHEET



## Winds of Climate Change blast farmers' hopes of sustaining a livelihood in Burkina Faso

Autumn 2015

In late May, on the great Gnaga plain, the earth is dry, with deep cracks. An occasional tree—usually red acacia—stands out as a patch of green. In the villages most of the wells have dried up. It is the toughest part of the year, when reserves from the previous harvest run low and the next one is not yet ripe. And still there is no rain. Over the past 30 years, average rainfall has dropped by 200mm. The Sahel climate zone is steadily spreading south. Since 1975 the (average) temperature has risen by 0.8C.

The plant cover has vanished. With diminishing rainfall the soil is blown away by winds that grow ever more violent. There are no longer any trees to slow them down. The loss of plant cover has speeded up soil degradation and the rainy season is very short.

As the people in Burkina Faso wait anxiously for the next crop more than 330,000 people face food insecurity. In Gagna province, with an average of seven people in each household the situation is worse. Farmers are producing less than half the food they need to survive. After four to six months their reserves run out. In the worst years they have to sell

### Call on David Cameron to show leadership on climate change

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis calls on all of us to care for the world's poorest people, for future generations and for the earth, our common home. Inspired by his words, we join with Catholics worldwide, as part of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, and call on our Prime Minister and other world leaders to take urgent action to prevent climate change pushing people deeper into poverty.

To sign the petition go to: [www.cafod.org.uk/](http://www.cafod.org.uk/)

### AFRICA EUROPE FAITH & JUSTICE NETWORK

## IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

Caring for Creation, Caring for Humanity

**Wednesday, 11th November 2015**

**11.00-15.30**

**St Aloysius Hall, 20 Phoenix Rd.**

**London NW1 1TA**

*(2 mins walk from Euston Station)*

The UK Antenna of the AEFJN invites all in Leadership, all involved in justice-related ministries, Associates and Co-operators to discover more about the Network.

### Guest Speakers

**Fr Chika Onyejiuwa CSSp.**

*AEFJN Executive Secretary in Brussels*

**Nick Dearden**

*Director of "Global Justice Now" (formerly WDM)*

**Email: [aefjnuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aefjnuk@yahoo.co.uk) Text: 0778 7078833**

*Are you a returned missionary? Are you retired but active? Are you interested in African affairs? Do you, like Pope Francis, want to see justice flourish? Are you somebody who would lobby on behalf of the poor if you knew how? Are you concerned about care for our planet and the impending disaster if climate change goes unchecked? Do you care about the world's resources and the inequity between the rich North and the impoverished South?*

*If your answer is YES then please come to this meeting and add your voice to address*

## End support of failed Aid projects now

The UK government is channelling millions of pounds of aid money to a big agribusiness project in Tanzania. But the project, ***Kilombero Plantations***, which has been hailed as a flagship model of responsible investment, has left **farmers in debt and displaced local communities**

While the government claims projects like this are a force for good, small-scale farmers are **losing control of their land and livelihoods**. A new report by ***Global Justice Now, The Oakland Institute and Greenpeace Africa*** has exposed how ***Kilombero Plantations*** with support from UK Aid, has created a large rice farm that has seen small-scale farmers contracted by the company to grow rice, chained by debt as well as local villagers displaced and moved into flood-prone houses.

**Call on your MP to write to the government to demand the UK ends its support for the corporate takeover of Africa's food and**

## Candle-lit vigil at the DSEI Arms Fair

14 September 2015 6.30—8pm

Royal Victoria DLR, Tidal Basin Rd, London E16 1AD

This event, open to all, is sponsored by the East London Against Arms Fairs, Pax Christi, Quaker Peace & Social Witness and CAAT. The vigil is to draw attention to the bi-annual **Defence & Security Equipment International**, the world's largest arms fair that takes place at the Excel Centre. We meet at DLR Royal Victoria at 6.30 and walk to the Excel Centre .



## CAFOD welcomes Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but calls

While the Millennium Development Goals showed working together can strengthen the effectiveness of development work, progress has been mixed, and their replacement by the **Sustainable Development Goals** this year is a chance for the world to re-double efforts to reach our target of ending world poverty and living sustainability in the next fifteen years. Crucially, the SDGs also recognise the devastating impact climate change is already having on the poorest people, and its potential to undermine



our ability to achieve the other goals.

The United Nations' final text includes positive references to the need for environmental sustainability and an increased focus on human dignity – both themes of Pope Francis' recent encyclical *Laudato Si'*

**While these goals are moving in the right direction, they are not a solution to our world's problems but a stepping stone we need to build on in the climate talks in Paris and through meaningful implementation of these goals over the next 15 years. This is our responsibility for present and future generations**

The Africa Action Sheet is produced by the:

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