

30 November 2022

Coordinator International Development Policy Development Policy Section Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade RG Casey Building John McEwen Crescent Barton ACT 0221

By email: <u>development.policy@dfat.gov.au</u>

Dear Coordinator

New International Development Policy

On behalf of the National Council of Churches in Australia, we write to formally endorse the Submission to Australia's International Development Policy from Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA).

The NCCA and Act for Peace have been extremely concerned with the global displacements crisis as it grows exponentially due to conflict, climate change, COVID's impact, and the rise of authoritarianism, nationalism and xenophobia. Accordingly, Act for Peace has prioritised displacement in its new Strategic Plan and in its Submission has focused on what role Australia can play to address the global displacement crisis in Australia's next International Development Policy.

Relatedly the NCCA facilitates the work of the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce. The Taskforce focuses on supporting domestic asylum and refugee settlement and strengthening Australian communities with a Christian vision of compassion and hospitality for those seeking refuge and protection.

The NCCA also endorses the Submission of the Church Agencies Network (CAN) on the International Development Policy that has been shared with us as many of the CAN member agencies are from churches that are members of the NCCA.

NCCA is also a member of, and facilitator for, the Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network (PCPAN), which has been established by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to support the leadership and organisational needs of Pacific churches and church leaders to contribute to development outcomes more effectively in Pacific Island countries. The NCCA President is the Deputy Chair of PCPAN.

We look forward to working with you further on the development and implementation of Australia's new International Development Policy. Anglican Church

Antiochian Orthodox Church

Armenian Apostolic Church

Assyrian Church of the East

Chinese Methodist Church

Churches of Christ

Congregational Federation

Coptic Orthodox Church

Greek Orthodox Church

Indian Orthodox Church

Lutheran Church

Mar Thoma Church

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Roman Catholic Church

Romanian Orthodox Church

Syrian Orthodox Church

The Salvation Army

Uniting Church

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Yours faithfully

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