Thursday, September 22, 2011

**ACT Alliance members working in the Occupied Palestinian Territory statement on the current humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

We, ACT Alliance members working in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, have met in the annual ACT forum September 19&20 and issue this statement due to our ongoing concern regarding the current humanitarian situation.

As the membership status of Palestine is discussed at the UN during these days, the stalemate in the political process between Israel and the Palestinians is a cause of significant concern. As the diplomatic efforts are intensifying we are fearful that the continuation of the stalemate can lead to human sufferings and probably more violence at immeasurable human and socio-economic costs to all involved in this long drawn out conflict.

We call upon all relevant parties to respect human dignity and protect lives of civilians as stated in the international humanitarian law.

Our humanitarian concern compels us to call for a political process that would see an end to the conflict in accordance with international humanitarian law and UN resolutions. Such a process, we feel, would prevent future scenarios that would exacerbate the inevitable human and other costs. It would prevent taxing society’s resources as well as those who would like to invest in creating equitable peaceful relationships.

We call upon our churches and constituencies to pray for peace, justice and reconciliation, especially in this crucial time.

**ACT Alliance members working in the Occupied Palestinian Territory:**

Middle East Council of Churches Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees -ACT alliance

Norwegian Church Aid – ACT alliance

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land - ACT alliance

Lutheran World Federation - ACT alliance

Finn Church Aid - ACT alliance

Christian Aid - ACT alliance

DanChurch Aid - ACT alliance

International Orthodox Christian Charities - ACT alliance

Lutheran World Relief - ACT alliance

The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM) - Observer of ACT Alliance.