

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

The participants were very excited about the conference. It was clear that only a few knew much about the issues and that this was their first conscious brush with the external debt (ED). Since it was all rather new to them, it could not be expected that they would come up with a complete programme of concrete action.

The following are the statements, recommendations, sentiments and ideas produced at the end of the conference. They represent the thinking and awareness of the participants at the end of the conference and show that they had come a long way in understanding many of the issues, even though these statements still lack concreteness.

1. Debt servicing is causing untold hardships on the people. The percentage of debt servicing should be reduced.
2. Mismanagement of public funds in Nigeria has compounded the problem and needs to be seriously addressed.
3. The Government should not borrow further. If she does want to, she should first consult the people and the money borrowed must be used productively.
4. The church should engage in some self-examination to ascertain whether or not her actions encourage godly or ungodly living.
5. Godly people should be encouraged to get involved in government in order to improve its quality.
6. The sympathy and help of our sister churches in creditor countries should be solicited towards influencing their governments for positive action on the ED crisis.
7. Those who attended this conference should organize local conferences, seminars or workshops to share the insights they have gained.

8. Christians and the masses should be enlightened and taught how to cope with the present economic predicament.
9. The church should create a think tank consisting of Christians from different occupations and disciplines to provide her with knowledge that would guide her in making decisions.
10. Christians should become personal examples of practical liberation by forgiving debts they know that their debtors are not able to repay. The Lord's Prayer says: "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."