



Interfaith Climate Summit Uppsala, Sweden

28–29 NOVEMBER 2008

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Archbishop of Church of Sweden, Anders Wejryd, is inviting a select group of internationally recognised opinion-makers from different faiths, cultures and continents to a climate summit to be held in Uppsala in November 2008.



Purpose

The purposes of the summit are;

- to communicate an urgent, hopeful, *ethical-religious* message to the global community about the need – especially for the developed countries – to slow down global warming, and to prevent and alleviate the effects of droughts, flooding, storms and other serious effects of climate change;
- to debate climate change and its effects on the world's water and food security, and how to achieve the UN's Millennium Development Goals on fighting poverty and globally sustainable ecological, social and economic development;
- to pledge commitment *to the necessary, radical and far-reaching climate policy goals and measures* in the “Post-Kyoto Process”, that the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) determine, should be realised after 2012;
- to affirm this commitment in the *Uppsala Manifesto 2008*, and deliver the Manifesto to; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as to the Swedish government – prior to its Presidency of the European Union in 2009 – and to the world's governments, and to different church networks and other religions.



Programme outline

A select group of 30 internationally well recognized policy-makers – from different faiths, cultures and continents – will be invited to sign a manifesto in conjunction with an interfaith ceremony in Uppsala Cathedral on 28th November 2008. The focus of the summit is climate change and the future of the world. It will draw attention to our shared responsibility to give hope to the world, and also to eliminate the adverse effects of global warming. What can and should religions do now and in the future to give the world a future and hope?

The summit will take place in Uppsala 28–29 November 2008. The agenda contains among other things:

- Discussions with the invited guests on Friday afternoon and Saturday
- Interfaith ceremony at Uppsala Cathedral. Signing of the Manifesto
- Lectures
- Seminars

THE MANIFESTO

The summit discussions will be based on two documents that some of the world's most prominent researchers will prepare during the course of the year:

- A paper on the existential and ethical-religious perspectives;
- A paper in support of far-reaching measures in the post-Kyoto process which combines knowledge about the effects of climate change on future sustainable ecological, social and economic development;



- The Uppsala Manifesto will be based on these two documents and will be presented as a statement at the UNFCCC's meeting in Poland in December 2008. The invited guests will be asked to sign this Manifesto.

Background facts

The global community has been made aware that forceful measures are needed to slow global warming. This has been described in the IPCC's climate reports and by Nicholas Stern's analysis of the effects of climate changes on the global economy.

The objective of keeping the increase in average temperatures to a maximum of $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$ until the next century is crucial. If temperature exceeds this limit it will probably lead to galloping warming, a rapid melting of the icecap in Antarctica and Greenland and a melting of permafrost with the resulting release of temperature-increasing methane gas etc. Greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced drastically and the temperature increase cannot exceed $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$ within 100 years.

Climate change presents an ethical and moral challenge to churches, other religions, politicians, economists, NGOs and groups involved in science, technology and policy making. It's a matter of valuing life as a gift, how we value humanity, human rights, sustainable development and the struggle for life.



NEW INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AGREEMENT

It is crucial to adopt effective and radical climate policies in the coming years:

1. The continued rapid introduction and development of technologies that make efficient use of resources – for heating, operating vehicles and industrial processes – must be given highest priority. These technologies need to be exchanged with a greater share of fuel that does not affect climate change. Every country must act responsibly. Countries with few or limited resources for developing technologies must receive support – either via trade, aid or other means.
2. Climate conscious lifestyles must be developed, especially among large populations that enjoy comparatively high levels of material consumption. Models for enabling a greater share of non-material consumption for education, health care, culture and non-profit investments need to be developed, in order to prevent an even greater consumption of the developed world.

These two strategies need to be developed and adopted simultaneously. Both require ethical reflection, bold political leadership, responsible behaviour in the markets, and a greater proportion of non-material growth and consumption in countries that already enjoy high living standards.

All positive forces need to work together for a new protocol after 2012. The EU will make a decision on its position during Sweden's Presidency of the European Union in the autumn 2009.



Follow-up of the Uppsala Manifesto 2008

THE MANIFESTO WILL BE PRESENTED:

- at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Poland in December 2008;
- to the governments in USA, Russia, China and India;
- to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development's meeting in New York 2009;
- to the Swedish government in preparation of the Swedish Presidency of the European Union in 2009;
- to the World Council of Churches;
- to the Lutheran World Federation.

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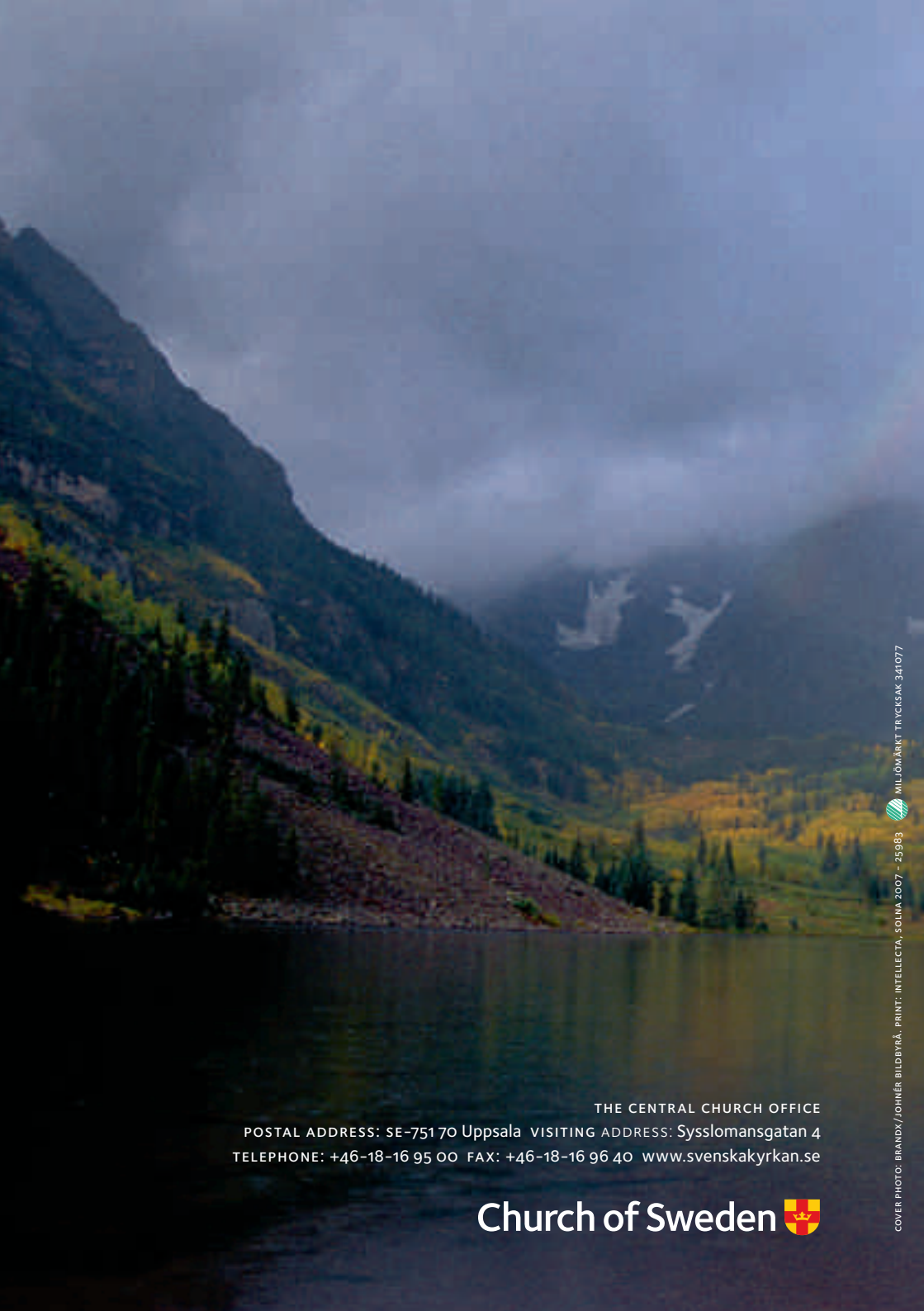
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The human chain showed below is a climate manifestation at Åreskutan, Sweden, August 2007. Photo: Arne Larsson/IKON.





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