



A Theological Communiqué on Land and Deep Seabed Mining in the Pacific

Council for World Mission (CWM)

Face-to-Face Programme on Land and Deep Seabed Mining

Nauru, October 2025

We, the participants of the Council for World Mission (CWM) Face to Face Programme on “*Land and Deep Sea Mining*”, held in Nauru from 2nd to 7th October 2025, representing CWM member churches from the **Presbyterian Church of Wales, Church of South India, Presbyterian Church of Malaysia, Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa, United Church of Papua New Guinea, and the Nauru Congregational Church**, together with communities, youth, and faith networks across continents, gathered in prayer, discernment, and solidarity.

We came to listen to the earth and ocean groaning under the weight of extraction, to the cries of peoples whose lands and livelihoods bear the scars of exploitation, and to the Spirit of God calling the church to stand where creation bleeds.

Our Context and Convictions

The island of Nauru beautiful, wounded, and resilient reminds the global community of the long-term devastation wrought by extractive economies. The scars left by phosphate mining are not only geological but also moral and spiritual. They expose the violence of a system that commodifies creation and devalues the sacred interdependence between humanity, land, and sea.

As people of faith, we affirm that the land and the ocean are not property but partners in God’s covenant of life. They hold memory, identity, and wisdom. They are sacred trusts, not economic frontiers.

We affirm that creation is good (Genesis 1:31), that all the earth belongs to God (Psalm 24:1), and that humanity’s vocation is stewardship, not domination (Genesis 2:15). We confess that the empire of extraction rooted in colonial legacies, corporate greed, and ecological blindness stands in direct opposition to the mission of God, which is life-flourishing for all.

Shared Insights

Throughout the Face to Face journey, we:

- Reflected theologically on land, and ocean as spaces of divine presence and human responsibility.
- Engaged with scientific, Indigenous, and community wisdom on the risks and consequences of land and deep-sea mining.

- Witnessed the long-term impact of extractive economies in Nauru, learning from the resilience and spiritual strength of its people.
- Explored the intersection of gender, empire, and ocean justice, discerning how patriarchal and colonial systems continue to shape environmental destruction.
- Shared stories of resistance and hope from across the world where churches and communities are reclaiming the right to live well with creation.

We leave convinced that the struggle against extractive industries is not only environmental, it is theological, ethical, and spiritual. It is a struggle for the soul of creation itself.

Our Commitments and Calls to Action

As CWM participants of the Face to Face Programme on Land and Deep Sea Mining, we commit ourselves to:

1. **Stand in solidarity with Pacific communities** calling for a **ban on deep-sea mining**, affirming that the ocean is the womb of life, not a graveyard of profit.
2. **Resist destructive mining practices**—both on land and in the sea—that threaten ecosystems, cultures, and future generations.
3. **Advocate for just, transparent, and accountable governance** of natural resources, ensuring the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge, spiritual wisdom, and free, prior, and informed consent of local communities.
4. **Mobilise our churches and networks** to promote ecological conversion through worship, education, and public witness—raising awareness via social media, congregational education, and community action.
5. **Pray and act together** for ecological and economic transformation, trusting that faith without works is dead (James 2:17).

Conclusion: Going Forth in Hope

We leave Nauru renewed in faith, conscience, and courage. We affirm that the Church's prophetic vocation in this age is to **name the sins of extractive empire**, to **defend the integrity of creation**, and to **proclaim life in the face of death-dealing systems**.

With hearts rooted in justice and hope, we pledge to work for a future where **land, ocean, and all life may flourish in dignity and peace**. We go forth, trusting in the promise of God's renewal of all things (Revelation 21:5), and declaring with conviction:

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."
(Psalm 24:1)