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ECUMENICAL ASSOCIATION OF THIRD WORLD THEOLOGIANS
ASOCIACIÓN ECUMÉNICA DE TEÓLOGOS/AS DEL TERCER MUNDO

VOICES



RELIGIONS ET PEACE

EATWOT AT WFTL

RELIGIONS ET PAIX

L'EATWOT AU FMTL

RELIGIONES Y PAZ

LA EATWOT EN EL FMTL

ISSUE EDITED BY EATWOT'S INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

VOLUME XXXIV N° 2011/2 NEW SERIES APRIL-JUNE 2011

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**RELIGION & PEACE
EATWOT IN THE FMTL**

**RELIGIONS ET PAIX
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A EATWOT NO FMTL**

VOICES

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Presentation

This edition of VOICES places at the disposition of the public a variety of reflections presented and/or coordinated by EATWOT as part of its participation in the World Forum on Theology and Liberation (FMTL), which took place February 6-11, 2011. These reflections were presented during the Forum.

In the first place, the current issue treats of the workshop on “Religions and Peace,” which did not focus—as is usually the case for this topic—on violence and religious-political violence, but rather on “the theology required so that religions can live in peace and collaborate for the Common Good of Humanity and the planet,” that is say, toward a theology of religious pluralism.

Over a period of two months prior to the Forum, the workshop produced and placed on the internet, in digital form, material aimed at making it possible for anyone, any community or institution, to be able to participate on-line from any part of the world. This “digital material” was and is fundamentally a “foundational documentation for the debate,” It was prepared in four languages, French being the first among them, since the country in which the World Social Forum was to take place was francophone. In order to develop this “base document” EATWOT invited the world’s best-known experts on the theme of religious pluralism and asked them to prepare short, very pedagogical, almost schematic, contributions. Intended to be presented as theses to be debated, they were then translated and placed on the internet. All these contributions from experts, which have a permanent quality and value beyond the workshop that took place during the FMTL, are gathered together and made available for the future in this issue of VOICES.

As planned, on February 8, 2011 the workshop actually took place as an activity organized by the FMTL within the programming of the World Social Forum. There, in open debate, panelists presented their ideas, which are now published here.

Within the planned objectives of having a dialogue with experts on “the theology or new vision required for religions to live together,” EATWOT did not fail to make its own position public. It published a docu-

ment of its Theological Commission on “Religions, Pluralism and Peace.” This too is officially published here and made available publicly in five languages.

The current issue of VOICES also gathers together various other contributions from members of EATWOT in other activities of the FMTL along with others we are publishing for their special importance. EATWOT is actively subscribing to the hope that theology achieve the principal objective that the FMTL wished to bring about: a first attempt at setting out a “theological agenda” for Liberating Theology—in all its forms and currents—on a planetary level. In all modesty, we believe that this objective was far from being achieved. Nevertheless, the very fact of having put it forward for the first time in history shows, without a doubt, that we are entering that stage in which theology must recognize the need to work with a planetary community and awareness, and quite clearly without abandoning specific tasks, we need to take up with determination collective theological projects that are on the edge have a “planetary” vision and that press theology beyond its tired domestic references.

EATWOT has already reflected broadly on these perspectives regarding the future of theology and on what a “pluralist, inter-religious, lay, planetary theology might mean concretely. It has incorporated many other theologians in this preoccupation for advancing toward the future. The fifth and final volume of the series “Along the Many Paths of God,” entitled “Toward a Planetary Theology,” was published barely a year ago and is available on the internet as a witness to this fact.

Even though we did not achieve the objective we had proposed, EATWOT congratulates the FMTL for having, for the first time, proposed to work toward it and to collaborate in the effort to be transformed by it as well as to transform the current theological reflection, “toward a planetary theology.” Faithful to its vocation, which has been, since its foundation, that of being a world forum for liberation theology, *avant la lettre*, EATWOT intends to renew its theological agenda with determination in its next General Assembly, to be celebrated in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, next September. There it will produce a theological agenda for the coming years, one that is filled with theological initiatives and projects with a “planetary” vision and that will provide continuity with the hope that we have all placed in the realization of the recent FMTL, a hope that is witnessed clearly in this issue of VOICES.

We will speak more of that in the next issue of VOICES.

José María VIGIL
International Theological Commission