A message to Archbishop Francisco da Silva and all who are participating in the Anglican Lusophone consultation in Recife, Brazil.

Warmest greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ from your sisters and brothers, meeting at Volmoed, South Africa, as a group of bishops committed to climate justice. We have been invited here by the Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba, Primate of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and chair of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network.

We have shared the Eucharist and prayed together by the water and under the trees of this beautiful place. In a spirit of Lenten repentance we have listened to, and lamented, each other’s stories from our home dioceses and Provinces of the devastating impacts of climate change and environmental degradation which are the lived reality of our people. We have shared our experience of deforestation; drought and flooding; loss of habitat and the displacement of coastal, island and Indigenous peoples, the salination and pollution of inland waters and the acidification of ocean fishing grounds.

We cannot countenance continuing climate change and accelerating destruction of the environment, its creatures and natural rhythms. We have committed ourselves to listen in a new way to the groaning of creation and to speak and act urgently in ways that are pastoral, priestly and prophetic.

As you meet to consider life and diakonia in your Lusophone dioceses, we invite you to join your prayers, your voices and your actions with ours.

27 February 2015

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town and Primate of Southern Africa
Bishop Andrew Chan, Western Kowloon, Hong Kong
Bishop Andrew Dietsche, New York, USA
Bishop Apimeleki Qiliho, Vanua Levu and Taveuni, Fiji
Bishop Chad Gandiya, Harare, Zimbabwe
Bishop David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church & Bishop of St Andrews Dunkeld & Dunblane
Bishop Ellinah Wamukola, Swaziland
Bishop Jane Alexander, Edmonton, Canada
Bishop Jonathan Casimina, Davao, Philippines
Bishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Bishop, Canada
Bishop Nathaniel Nakwatumbah, Namibia
Bishop Nicholas Holtham, Salisbury, England
Bishop Nick Drayson, Northern Argentina
Bishop Steve Moreo, Johannesburg, South Africa
Bishop Thomas Oommen, Madhya Kerala, South India
Bishop Tom Wilmot, Perth, Goldfields-Country Region, Australia
Bishop William Mchombo, Eastern Zambia