

A proposal for an Anglican Bank for church savings and loans for community-based schemes was one of the proposals to come out of the economic empowerment workshop at the Anglican Alliance conference in Nairobi.

The consultation to take forward proposals for development, relief and advocacy across the Anglican Communion yesterday (April 14th) received a strong endorsement from Archbishop Eliud Wabukala of Kenya, who described his involvement in church-based banking institutions.

The economic empowerment workshop came after a day-long site visit to see holistic development work in Mount Kenya East diocese.

Yesterday's economic empowerment workshop heard presentations from Peter Warutere of the World Bank, Moses Ochieng of the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor and Peterson Kamau from the church's own micro-finance agency Five Talents. They set out the challenges facing developing countries and set out strategies to overcome poverty globally, nationally and locally.

In subsequent workshops participants decided on the priorities that they wanted to see the Anglican Alliance develop. These included:

- The development of an Anglican Bank for savings and loans
- A public education campaign on financial literacy and rights
- Partnerships and collaboration for development
- Participatory budgeting to improve economic governance
- Advocacy for economic justice

The consultation agreed that the Alliance should also focus on peace and reconciliation as a second area of development policy and governance as a third area.

The consultation also decided the outline of advocacy strategy. For 2011 participants decided to focus on economic empowerment, the theme of this year's G20. They decided to focus on the key themes of:

- Access to finance
- Food security – working on the impact on people of increased prices of food
- Financing of basic services, including health, sanitation and water.