

EVENT-REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

TANZANIA

DANIEL EL-NOSHOKATY
JULIE GOUDET

NOVEMBER 2017

www.kas.de/tanzania/en/

DEEPENED INTERFAITH DIALOG IN TANZANIA

FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS

On the 25th of November 2017, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Tanzania organized a meeting together with the Inter-Religious Council for Peace Tanzania (IRCPT) at the Golden Tulip City Center Hotel in Dar es Salaam. The event marked the first meeting of the Council of Religious Leaders of the IRCPT one year after signing a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between religious institutions of the United Republic of Tanzania and the IRCPT on cooperation to strengthening peace.

After joint prayers, Rev. Canon Thomas Godda, Executive Director of the IRCPT, welcomed all participants. He expressed his gratefulness for their commitment for peace and tolerance, highlighted the significance of interreligious dialog in Tanzania and pointed out the long way that has been gone so far.

Daniel El-Noshokaty, Resident Representative of the KAS in Tanzania, emphasized the importance of a "meaningful dialog". He encouraged the participants to continue to fill their cooperation with meaning, so that the promising phrase of "interreligious dialog" does not become an empty shell.

Then, Sheikh Suleiman Lolila, Board Chairperson of the IRCPT, gave a vote of thanks. He stressed the endeavours for peace of the IRCPT with the support of the KAS and reminded the participants of the dramatic consequences of wars through history. He

finally alerted the audience to the danger of mixing politics and religions, and encouraged the participants to stand up against the instrumentalization of religion to win voters.

Subsequently, the German Ambassador H. E. Dr. Detlef Wächter delivered a speech. He expressed the importance of the interreligious dialog for Germany and underlined the peaceful coexistence of diverse cultures in Tanzania since its independence, while violence in the name of religion is a reality in a number of countries today. H. E. Dr. Wächter said that tolerance should be preserved and indicated further support from Germany to foster respect and dialog between religions in Tanzania.

After these hopeful words group photos were taken, followed by a networking session, allowing the participants to deepen their relationships with each other and to talk in a more informal setting. The morning deliberations were facilitated by Richard Shaba, Programme Coordinator of KAS.



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Group photo of some of the religious leaders, H. E. Dr. Detlef Wächter (2nd left seated) and Mr. Daniel El-Noshokaty (1st left seated)

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After prayers and joint lunch, the afternoon session consisted of a closed meeting, in which the religious leaders developed and discussed their action plan and, among others, elected Bishop Ngalalekumtwa, President of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), as the chairperson of their Council and Kishor Takhar, former head of the Hindu Council of Tanzania (HCT), as the vice chairperson.



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