

EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

TANZANIA

DANIEL EL-NOSHOKATY
ISABELLE V. USLAR-GLEICHEN

MARCH 2017

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INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOG: CONTRIBUTION OF YOUTHS TO PEACEBUILDING AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN TANZANIA

On the 30th March 2017, the Interreligious Council for Peace Tanzania (IRCPT) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) organized a meeting for the Tanzania Youth Interfaith Network (TYIN) in Dar es Salaam to discuss the contents of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and to develop strategies for its implementation within IRCPT and society in general.

The "Memorandum of Understanding between Religious Institutions on Cooperation to strengthen Peace, Understanding and Tranquility for Development and People's Prosperity" was signed by the IRCPT's main representatives on 12th November 2016 and represents a significant step forward for interreligious dialogue. In a second step it is now important to transfer this declaration of intent into practical measures through which the sub-organizations of the IRCPT, such as TYIN or the Tanzania Women Interfaith Network (TWIN), can promote the MoU's objective.

The workshop began with a simultaneous prayer of the different faiths - also in memory of the recently deceased Br. Gallus Marandu, Deputy Secretary of the Bishops' Conference Tanzania (T.E.C.), a crucial pioneer of the MoU. This was followed by the welcome remarks of Canon Thomas Godda, Secretary General of the IRCPT, and Erasto Ndeuka (KAS), and a brief introduction of all participants before Mr. Godda stressed the importance of the MoU, its challenges and

opportunities. "It is our task to pass this (the MoU) on to the population," he demanded of the youth representatives. Hence, the exact knowledge of the MoU, and additionally the tolerant interaction with one another is indispensable, he added, while each person should at the same time be rooted in his own faith. In joint work TYIN could make a decisive contribution to peace education, he said.



Canon Thomas Godda (IRCPT)

"We are one, we need to work together.", Erasto Ndeuka agreed with him and reported cases in which the personal commitment was decisive for the peaceful outcome of religious disputes.

Since the MoU is the basis for the future of interreligious dialogue in Tanzania, Canon Thomas Godda then read out loud important passages and recalled the long-term pro-

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cess, which finally resulted in this declaration.



Erasto Ndeuka (KAS)

Mr. Ndeuka encouraged the TYIN representatives to comment on the MoU and also to communicate their opinions to the IRCPT, particularly with regard to the next meeting of the leadership level in June.

Questions and comments of the participants then dealt with different aspects of the topic. In this way, questions about the exact objectives of the MoU were answered and worries were cleared up. But also first proposals and ideas for concrete work have already been mentioned. For example, the inclusion of different media such as social media, documentary films or music videos to spread the content within the youthful target group were presented.

In the end, a new meeting (to continue the workshop) was set for April and the participants were asked to prepare their ideas for projects in the form of a presentation until then. Mr. Godda closed the meeting with heartfelt thanks to the participants for the lively discussion and to the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung for the constant support of the work of the IRCPT.



Konrad Adenauer Stiftung e.V.
European and International Co-
operation

Country Office Tanzania
Isimani Street, 24
P.O. Box 6992
Dar es Salaam Tanzania

Phone: +255 22 2153174

Fax: +255 22 2151990

Email: info.tanzania@kas.de



*Prepared to strengthen interreligious peace
(Group photo)*