

Press Release

The Faith-Based-Organisations and Constitutional Reforms in Tanzania

On 01 and 02 November 2011 the Inter-Religious Council for Peace Tanzania [IRCPT] in collaboration with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung [KAS] are organizing an Interfaith Dialogue on "The Faith-Based-Organizations and Constitutional Reforms in Tanzania". The Interfaith Dialogue is supported by the German Embassy in Tanzania and is scheduled to take place at the Dar es Salaam International Conference Centre [DICC].

His Excellency the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Klaus-Peter Brandes, will officiate as the Chief Guest.

Approximately 50 high-ranking representatives of all religious groups represented in Tanzania will discuss for two days, how the FBOs can participate in the current constitutional reform process in unison and voice their common interests. Advocate Francis Kiwanga [LHRC] and Deus Kibamba [JKT], leading experts on constitutional issues, shall present papers. Under the moderation of Salim Zagar the representatives of the FBOs will discuss the role of the FBOs during the constitutional reform process, being mindful of the varying views of the different religious communities; but shall strive to agree on common positions.

If the new Constitution of Tanzania should be really a Constitution for all Tanzanians, an intensive participation of the civil society in the reform process is indispensable. The government has been very clear in its wish to take the civil society on board. Among the civil society organizations, the role of the faith-based-organizations is crucial; therefore the participation of the FBOs is particularly critical because they represent the largest part of the Tanzanian society.

On the basis of shared common values, the FBOs want to respond to their social responsibility and be an active stakeholder in the formation of the new Constitution. One has to bear in mind that the new Constitution shall shape and guide the political and social life of the Tanzanians in the next years.

The consultations and the common resolutions shall be documented in a publication and made public.