



**UNITED
EVANGELICAL
MISSION**

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Final Statement

International Partnership Conference, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

23rd – 27th September 2023

THE BEAM IN OUR EYE – NEW FORMS OF PARTNERSHIP

Preamble

Twenty one delegates from Africa, Asia and Germany as well as UEM staff met in Dar es Salaam (23rd-27th September 2023) for the International Partnership Conference on the future of UEM partnership work. The conference was organised by the UEM and hosted by the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT/ECD).

The International Partnership Conference was preceded by an International Think Tank (17th-22nd September 2023) on the same issue at the same location. More than half of the delegates participated in both meetings. The results from the International Think Tank were presented to the International Partnership Conference and had an impact on the subsequent discussions. The delegates engaged in group bible study, presentations, encounters with local groups and were involved in working groups.

Main topics affirmed

The deliberations were impacted by the preceding International Think Tank, which focused on the following key points, which were subsequently affirmed by the International Partnership Conference:

- a) Raise awareness of subtle racism in partnership and measures to overcome paternalism
- b) Ensure equality in diversity in partnership
- c) Improve the quality of partnership work
 - through certification (for following certain procedures)
 - through external counselling/auditing
 - by incorporating GLEP (Global learning in ecumenical perspective)/seminars/training/code of conduct
 - by incorporating criteria for evaluation (planning, monitoring, evaluation)

- d) Establish new forms of partnership work
- trilateral partnerships
 - partnerships between institutions (e.g. schools, hospitals)
 - partnerships based on issues/themes
 - partnerships between groups of similar interests, professions or expertise

The International Partnership Conference worked specifically on:

- Revision of the results of the International Think Tank (Attachment A)
- Revision of the UEM partnership guidelines (Attachment B)
- Suggestions for a partnership network (Attachment C)

Commitment & recommendations

We call on the UEM-members and their partnership groups to circulate and incorporate these documents into their partnership work.

To improve the quality of partnership work, we recommend that the UEM should facilitate a process of participatory discussions, leading towards **the establishment of criteria for qualified partnership work**. For this purpose a broad-based steering committee should be set up within the international partnership network. The findings of both the International Think Tank and the results of the Partnership Conference should serve as the guidelines for this process. The steering committee should also provide suggestions as to how the criteria can be incorporated into the actual partnership work.

Conclusion

Acknowledging the vital importance of partnerships for the UEM and the global church, we give thanks to God who unites us and pray for God to guide us with discernment on our future journey. We trust God to lead us in overcoming all obstacles such as subtle racism and all forms of discrimination, embracing our diversity and raising the quality of our service.