



**United Evangelical Mission (UEM) Council Statement for the Eastern Part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).**

**Together - We Grieve - We Pray - We Call for Urgent National, Sub-Regional and International Responses.**

We, UEM members of the UEM International Council gathered at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Botswana (ELCB) on 12 - 18 March 2025, among other issues, we express our heartfelt sympathy for and solidarity with human beings worldwide who are facing terrible bloody wars and conflicts.

Many people continue to lose their loved ones; and many more are forced to flee their homes, losing daily needs and basic human rights, livelihoods and their hope to return to their homes. It is very regrettable that the United Nations and other powerful nations/bodies are not stopping the alarming worldwide destruction.

“We encourage particularly the German member (churches) to inform themselves and self-reflect concerning the historical background of the situation and its roots in colonial times. We ask them to consider the role of economical European interests, i.e. treasures of the soil, in the conflict.”

**UEM members are committed to keep always being United in Mission:** “And whenever one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or when one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.” 1 Corinthians 12:26.

**The UEM members are requesting human rights protection in the Eastern Congo.**

The UEM Council is appealing for members’ regular prayers and concrete actions for God’s intervention in the disturbing situation in the Eastern part of the DR Congo and to bring enduring peace to the sub-region. It is so painful to learn how our sisters and brothers are in a desperate and distressing situation that require our concrete accompaniment, advocacy and solidarity in support actions.

It is regrettably reported that the rebel group M23, and neighbouring countries’ armed fighters sustain the armed conflict, instability and insecurity, through inciting violence and very severe human atrocities. These fighters are responsible for serious human rights abuses, including killings of and attacks and sexual violence against innocent civilians, where unpaid children are forcibly recruited to join the governments’ paid armies.

It is sadly reported that fighters who are involved in planning, directing or committing acts that constitute serious human rights violations or abuses in the DR Congo, are responsible for sustaining the armed conflict, instability, insecurity, exploitation of minerals and natural resources. The innocent



population is not able to implement their daily work to meet their needed livelihoods.

UEM members invite all people to passionately pray, and decision makers to act for:

- The DR Congo authorities, all involved parties/countries in the war and the international community to continue to apply wisdom and resources to provide protection for the suffering citizens, the distressed civilians, stop the war and conflicts, strengthen peace, mediation and reconciliation processes.
- The authorities in all involved countries to take concrete steps to address the drivers of conflict in the eastern Congo.
- Tirelessly provide the emergency relief to the war's survivors who are seriously affected and community members for a recovery of life.
- The respect of all processes that follow the resolutions of the joint East African Community/Southern African Development Community Heads of States Summit and bring a quick needed positive change.
- All the stakeholders in the DR Congo conflict to be sensitive to the plights of the victims and work towards restoration of peace, well-being of the devastated communities and ensure the population's daily security.

### **Standing in Prayer for all Countries in war and conflict.**

We, as UEM Council members, lament over the repercussion of the senseless wars on the people and God's creation. We have already started to see the cost of the wars on the world's economies, and we call for solidarity to face together against these tragedies. We demand the normalization of trade and shipment of food, oil and gas products to lessen the price pressures.

We, particularly stand in solidarity with people who are suffering due to the wars in the DR Congo, South Sudan, Cameroon, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Papuan people, Russia-Ukraine, Israel, the Palestinian Territories and in other many places worldwide. We lament over the appalling toll of death, destruction, displacement and collateral damages on humanity and God's creation. We appreciate the countries that welcome and accommodate refugees and continue to assist them.



We call on national, regional and the international leaders at all levels to always prioritize peaceful means of needed conflict resolution all torn apart. War is against God's very nature and plan for humanity and creation.

*We pray that "The Lord remains close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18).*

May the God of life, love, peace and comfort intervene in for the people in the suffering situation!

**The UEM Council Members**