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of Churches

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## The Lutheran World Federation – Africa Regional Expression

# Message from the Reformation and 60th Anniversary of Marangu Conference

### Preamble

We, the Lutheran Communion in Africa (LUCA), at our biannual conference held at the Lutheran Uhuru Hotel Conference Center, Moshi, Tanzania, from 20-24 May 2015 to commemorate and celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Marangu Conference of 1955, as we journey forward towards the 500 years of Reformation celebration in 2017 in Windhoek, Namibia.

Participants including delegates representing all member churches in Africa—men, women and youth met under the theme: “Marangu to Wittenberg: Being a Reforming Church in a Changing Africa Context”, also reflecting on the LWF 2017 theme: “Liberated by God’s grace: salvation not for sale, human beings not for sale, and creation not for sale”. We acknowledge and appreciate the presence of the LWF President, Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan, and LWF General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge and all partners.

In the course of the journey of the past sixty years, we acknowledge the many gains, contributions and trials of our forebears in the faith, with cognizance of the issues that the Church needs to deal with in our time.

In the spirit of Pentecost we reflected on the following issues:

### Theological Training and Education

We identified the urgent need for the renewal of the spiritual life of the churches, theological education and formation in order to respond to the needs of our churches today.

### Church Sustainability

We reflected on the urgent need to take concrete steps towards ensuring the sustainability of the church and its ministries.

## Leadership and Good Governance

There is a need for transforming and developing servanthood leadership model and good governance in the church.

## Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations

We recognize the presence of other Christians and faith traditions, and thus the need to relate with them more constructively.

## Mission and Diakonia

We acknowledge the centrality of prophetic and holistic mission and diakonia as initiated by God. These constitute the life, witness and vocation of the church today.

## Justice, Peace and Reconciliation

Acknowledging the various issues of injustice, violent conflicts, poverty, and human rights abuses, we are thus reminded of the importance of our prophetic responsibility as churches, to engage with such issues in a creative way.

**We, therefore,** in the spirit of renewal, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, **commit ourselves to:**

- Enhance and strengthen our theological education and pastoral formation to address the contextual realities of our times.
- Generate strategies towards resource mobilization locally and beyond for self-sustaining, self-reliance and self-propagating.
- Entrench service oriented leadership that is accountable, transparent, and includes active gender and intergenerational participation.
- Empower our congregation and various church sectors to actively engage in mission and diaconal activities.
- Collaborate and cooperate with other Christians and people of other faiths for the common good of humanity.
- Engage intentionally in creative ways the forces that cause and perpetuate injustices such as: climate change, poverty, human trafficking, exploitation, diseases, extremism, xenophobia, racism, attacks against albinos, human rights abuses, constitutional abuses both in the church and state, gender injustices, bribery and corruption, land grabbing and illegal mining, negative tribalism, harmful traditions, etc.

We, therefore, mandate that the Lutheran Council in Africa establishes a commission to reflect, consult and make concrete proposals on the future direction of the Lutheran Communion in Africa in accordance with the terms of reference as will be defined by the Council.

We call upon Africa Union, regional communities (ECOWAS, COMESA, EAC, SADC), and their member states to rise to their constitutional responsibilities of protecting human life and property, and to guarantee peace and security on the continent, which are indispensable for political stability and social development.

Moshi, Tanzania

25 May 2015