

Memorandum of Understanding

INTRODUCTION:

This Memorandum of Understanding is an agreement made between the following parties:

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN COUNCILS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (FOCCISA)

And

NORDIC CHRISTIAN COUNCILS

The Christian Council of Norway, the National Council of Churches in Denmark and the Christian Council of Sweden

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this MoU is to identify the roles and responsibilities of each party as they relate to the re-establishment of the cooperation between Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA) and three Nordic Christian Councils – Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

The parties hereby enter this agreement for purposes of achieving the following:

- 1.1. Establishment of the FOCCISA Secretariat.
- 1.2. Project implementation (health and gender justice, ecological and economic justice, human trafficking and migration, democracy and good governance).
- 1.3. Annual digital or physical meetings of the parties for support and following up.
- 1.4. Development and sharing of information, education and communication material.
- 1.5. To establish a platform for sharing experience, communication, and mutual learning.

2. BACKGROUND

FOCCISA and the Nordic Councils met at Birchwood Hotel in Johannesburg from the 31st of August to 1st September 2023 to;

- Re-establish church-to-church cooperation, Nordic-FOCCISA, for purposes of strengthening the churches' voice and work for social justice and human rights.
- Commit to the call of the unity of "Churches together in faith and action".

We further, are encouraged by our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that when churches come together, they manifest the giant commitment of the Scriptures that "nothing is impossible with God", Luke 1:37.

FOCCISA

FOCCISA is a fellowship of Christian Councils of Churches in the Southern African Development Committee (SADC) region.



Furthermore, FOCCISA provides a forum to facilitate consultation, networking, and cooperation of the churches on information, research, training, and liaison with one another. Additionally, FOCCISA enables its members to speak on all issues affecting the region on development, socio-economic, political and awareness through the sharing of views and expectations.

NORDICS

The Nordic Councils are represented at the meeting by the Christian Council of Norway, the National Council of Churches in Denmark and the Christian Council of Sweden, who represent most of the Christian churches in each country.

THE MoU

This MoU is to ensure the ownership and relevance of the collaboration in all the councils, to start working on strengthening the competence of the national and regional councils, and to enter into the social, political and economic challenges where the churches' voice and commitment must once again become clear.

This MoU serves as the joint declaration and commitment on the re-establishment and renewal of the Nordic-FOCCISA co-operation.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

FOCCISA commits to:

- 3.1. Develop and present program and project plans to the Nordic councils, and share information and material.
- 3.2. Continuous and timely reporting of progress made.
- 3.3. Ensure prudent use of every financial support in accordance with the approved budget.
- 3.4. Transparent and good governance of its resources.
- 3.5. Pray for the Nordic Christian Councils.
- 3.6. Comply with all the clauses of this memorandum.

The Nordic councils commit to:

- 3.7. Support FOCCISA through prayers, and consider capacity building, program development, exchange of personnel, according to their resources and competence.
- 3.8. Advocate for FOCCISA in order to get external funding according to scheduled programs and project plans.
- 3.9. Comply with all the clauses of this memorandum.

4. AMMENDMENTS

This MoU may be reviewed from time to time as need may arise by both parties.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE

This MoU is effective upon signing and shall remain in force for a period of three years, from September 2023 to September 2026.



Present at the meeting

FROM FOCCISA

Rev. Dr. Moses Matonya
Chairperson of FOCCISA
General Secretary
Christian Council of Tanzania

Masechaba Thorela
Vise Chairperson of FOCCISA
General Secretary,
Christian Council of Lesotho

Rev Gabriel Tsuaneng
General Secretary
Christian Council of Botswana)

Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana
General Secretary
South African Council of Churches

Bishop Gilford Matonga
Former Chairperson
FHGJN (Malawi)
Denmark

Rev. Agustao Zitha
Rep. General Secretary
Christian Council of Mozambique

Rev. Deolinda Teca
General Secretary
Council of Christian Churches in Angola

Rev. Canon Emmanuel Chikoya
General Secretary
Council of Churches of Zambia

FOCCISA REPRESENTATIVE

Rev. Canon Dr. Moses Matonya
Chairperson FOCCISA



Signature

Dr. Lebohang Matela
Director, FOCCISA
Health and Gender Justice Network

Mandla Hadebe
Director
Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA

FROM NORDIC COUNCILS

Rev. Erhard Hermansen
General Secretary
Christian Council of Norway

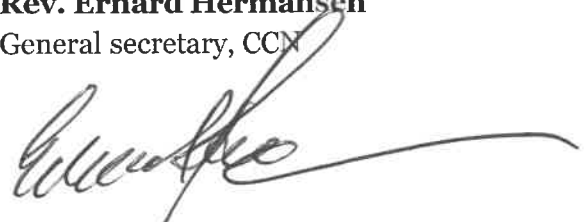
Rev. Mads Christoffersen
General Secretary
National Council of Churches in

Rev. Jan Eckerdahl
Theological advisor
Christian Council of Sweden

Esther Flores Sedman
Head of Communications
Christian Council of Sweden

NORDIC REPRESENTATIVE

Rev. Erhard Hermansen
General secretary, CCN



Signature

Johannesburg, September 1st 2023