

First Newsletter for the Fifth Delegates Conference of terre des hommes Germany

joint decisions



global impact

terre des hommes

2018
Fifth International
Delegates Conference



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1 Welcome by the StanCom

ALL VOICES TO THE DELEGATES CONFERENCE

JUNE 2018¹

Delegates from all continents are being heard at the fifth Delegates Conference with all their voices. Youth, adults, volunteers and staff of tdh Germany have been elected by the members of their organisations.

The big reunion is close, where new delegates from different partner organisations, different generations, countries and continents meet to keep designing the common and founding work of terre des hommes Germany.

Besides, this special year 2017, the year of terre des hommes Germany 50th anniversary, opens up a path to express our focus that should determine the work of the years 2018-2023.

That is why we need this preparatory time until June 2018 to identify and discuss our worries, demands, proposals and suggestions of children, youth, and women. We should keep working with inspiring commitment for a present - future with all those who share our idea that different world is possible.

We appreciate the huge achievement made by tdh at the Child Rights Committee in Geneva to protect the ecological rights of children and help preserve our Mother Earth for future generations so that her fruit keeps nourishing and sheltering us all.. But we need to review all goals that have guided our work these past years.

How was child participation in the daily work provided by our work? How are safe and secure spaces in the communities? In general, how have the goals and achievements impacted on the life of people we share our work with?

All of that and much more encourages us to give the warmest WELCOME to our new DELEGATES so that this collaborative work of co-decision help us review the relevance of the strategic goals, project new ones adapted to the intertwined reality of our countries, and that we keep having an impact in our ways of coexistence between us and the nature so that it is respectful, fair and mutual.

With what we are building, rescuing and creating with everyone's voice we aspire to bring about nice, beautiful and well living especially for children and youth who, being our present, will give us hope for the next generations to have what they deserve: a happy life in an environment that belongs to everybody.

¹ David Ordenes, president of Corporación La Caleta, Chile. StanCom representative for Latin America. Sharing with tdh Germany since 1985.

2 Introduction to the Delegates Conference

„If you come to help me, you are wasting your time; but if you come, because your liberation is connected to mine, then let us work together!“

(Unknown beneficiary of a tdh project, cited according to Alberto Cacayan)

In this chapter, we would like to give you a “crash course” on the Delegates Conference (DC). Some of you are experienced and have already participated in a DC, but the majority are newcomers to this event.

At the Delegates Conference (DC) representatives of the German volunteer members of terre des hommes, project partner organizations of all regions, the international youth network and tdh staff – take part in the adoption of fundamental decisions on the *international program activities* of tdh and its partners. The DC meets every five years.

As international program activities, we define the joint work of terre des hommes and its partners, aiming to improve the situation of marginalized children. It includes project support and cooperation, policy dialogue, campaigns, networking, lobby and advocacy efforts in the global north and south. We consider the projects and programs in Germany a part of the international program activities.

The Delegates Conference consists of 42 delegates with equal rights:

- 12 Delegates of the Volunteers in Germany
- 12 Delegates of the Partner Organizations from South Asia, South East Asia, Central America, South America, Africa, Europe
- 6 Delegates from the International Youth Network
- 6 Delegates of the tdh staff
- 3 Delegates of the tdh-Presidium
- 3 Delegates of the tdh Executive Board

2.1 What does the DC decide on?

According to the terre des hommes statutes, the Delegates Conference decides on four different issues:

- A) **Strategic goals of international project work:** The strategic goals orient and focus the joint international program activities of tdh Germany and the projects of its partner organizations for a period of five years.

According to a recommendation by the Standing Committee (StanCom), a Strategic Goal should

1. ... answer to the question:
“What do we want to achieve for and with children within the next 5 years?”
2. ... describe the intended change to be achieved, not the planned activity.
3. ... have international relevance.
4. ... have a good chance to be reached within the 5-years-time period or to achieve measurable improvement, respectively.

5. ... be related to the vision, mandate and mission of terre des hommes Germany.
6. ... be related to the context analysis.
7. ... be relevant for all terre des hommes stakeholders carrying out activities.
8. ... be comprehensible for new partners, new volunteers, new staff and interested persons who are not familiar with terre des hommes.
9. ... respond to the specific profile of terre des hommes Germany
10. ... have indicators or milestones that are measurable and relevant

To summarize: The goals should be formulated in a manner, that after five years we can clearly say, if we did or did not achieve it. They should not be all comprehensive, but rather shed a spotlight on the most important and very concrete changes we would like to achieve jointly within the next five years.

- B) **Joint campaigns:** Joint campaigns comprise activities that lobby, advocate and sensitize internationally on a topic that is important to tdh and its partner organizations. Proposed campaigns should have specific goals and a strategy on how to achieve the desired changes. The topic of the campaign should be urgent and equally important for all delegates groups and regions. Both tdh and its partner organization should be willing to invest resources (such as time, money) in a campaign.

Unlike the strategic goals, joint campaigns are an “extra” to tdh and its partners ‘work.

- C) **Focal themes** relevant to all groups of delegates: Focal themes refer to possible fields of activities or approaches, which are not yet sufficiently elaborated or specific enough to be considered as a strategic goal, but should be further examined or studied by tdh.
- Focal themes are intended to increase knowledge and the framing of joint positions, reflected e.g. in the production of publications or brochures, or prepare the ground for future strategic goals
- D) **Resolutions on important international issues:** Resolutions are political declarations and demands made by the Delegates Conference. The DC 2013 for instance has issued such a declaration on European Union’s migration politics.

2.2 Historical Development

tdh’s Swiss founding father, Edmond Kaiser, always stressed the fact that terre des hommes should be a social movement, not a charity organization or even a “professional of altruism”. Therefore, since its foundation, it has been terre des hommes vision to create a North-South co-operation of equals in order to solve common global problems and improve the living conditions of children worldwide.

terre des hommes has always striven to measure itself against these ideals. For tdh Germany this meant passing through a long learning curve resulting in the development of a unique participation and co-decision model that includes all key stakeholders of the international program work.

You can roughly divide the history of the participation model of terre des hommes into five phases:

1. Direct help and project implementation by tdh Germany (1967 – 1975): In the first years of terre des hommes Germany’s existence, the organization’s German activists directly helped

war injured children from Vietnam, organizing their treatment in Germany. Afterwards their gradually extended their work to other countries.

2. Classical donor relation with project partner organizations (1975 – 1984): Already in the 1970s, these activists themselves questioned the paternalistic practice of sending “white experts” to other countries. In 1975, terre des hommes Germany stopped implementing own projects and delegating foreign experts to so-called development countries. Since then, tdh Germany financially supports local partner organizations.
3. Informal and irregular dialogue (1984 – 1990): In 1984, Southeast Asian partner organizations made a proposal to improve and change terre des hommes’ criteria for project support. Their proposal was accepted by tdh. Two years later Latin American partner organizations and tdh staff held a meeting, discussing and developing joint concepts for the regional program. Further regional meetings between partners and terre des hommes staff followed, laying the foundation for today’s regional partner platforms.
4. First institutionalization of the dialogue and project partner participation (1990 – 2003): In the beginning of the 1990s, terre des hommes institutionalized the regional partner platforms. Afterwards, terre des hommes elevated the participation of partner organizations to the international level: During the first “International Framework Seminar”, held 1996 in Bonn, elected representatives of partner organizations of all project regions, terre des hommes staff and volunteer members jointly defined the focus of tdh’s global program. Three years later, the second Framework Seminar took place. Though the decisions of the framework seminary were always respected and implemented, formally they were not binding for terre des hommes.
5. Institutionalized Co-Decision: “Dare to be more democratic” – this was the title of a proposal made by the General Assembly, proposing a change of the statutes of terre des hommes, implementing the Delegates Conference as a new official body of the association. By giving the representatives of partner organizations decision power on strategic issues within terre des hommes, the organization wanted to break or at least balance the inequality of power inherent to the donor-recipient relation. This proposal was controversial, because it meant that the General Assembly itself would delegate important competences to the new body. Nevertheless, the General Assembly accepted the proposal in 2000.

Initially, the Delegates Conferences took place every three years. In 2013, the Delegates Conference agreed on a period of five years. Now, we are already preparing for the fifth Delegates Conference to take place in Germany in June 2018.

2.3 Results of former Delegates Conferences

2003: The first Delegates’ Conference decided on a policy and position paper (EPP) that guides terre des hommes politics until today. The strategic goals decided on by the Conference were relatively wide and focused on stopping the exploitation of children, protecting children from war and violence, supporting orphans and education.

Furthermore, the first DC decided on continuing the successful campaign on child trafficking and a regional campaign on biological and cultural diversity in South America:

- The child trafficking campaign achieved the implementation of stronger anti-trafficking laws in a number of countries (e.g. South Africa and Mozambique) and had an impact on the second facultative protocol of the UN-Child Rights Convention. In India, for instance, the activities of the campaign directly freed more than 1000 children

- The South American campaign created awareness for the cultural and biological diversity of the region, implementing indigenous languages at schools (e.g. Quechua) and fighting monocultures by reactivating traditional agricultural practices.

2006: Still being a new body of tdh, the Delegates Conference left its original areas of decision in the field of international program activities and decided on management strategies outside of the international program work: It passed a new communication strategy for terre des hommes and criteria for tdh's charity cooperation with private companies.

Furthermore, the DC decided to implement a child-rights based approach and passed 11 new strategic goals.

2009: The 2009 Delegates Conference focused on its core competencies of defining the strategy of international program activities:

- Loss of biological and cultural diversity: The DC decided to evaluate the consequences of a loss of biological and cultural diversity in the international projects. As a first joint activity of all tdh stakeholders, the delegates established an "international day of biological diversity". The basics for the work on ecological child rights was laid.
- Migration: Years before the topic of migration became notorious by the so-called „refugee crisis“, the DC included the topic into the strategy for international program work for the years 2009 – 2012.
Many successes were achieved: terre des hommes reported on Germany's migration policies in a shadow report to the UN Child Rights Committee. The international pressure led to improvements in German laws on access of refugee children to education and health services and improved child protection in the asylum process.
- Implementation of the UN Child Rights Convention: The DC proposed an international audit of the implementation of the UN Child Rights Convention. The audit was conducted in the Philippines, Zimbabwe, India, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Nicaragua and Guatemala. The results were taken up and fed into the revision processes of the UN Child Rights Committee, achieving legal improvements in many countries. The methodology of participatory Child Rights Audits, which was developed by terre des hommes and its partner organizations, was furthermore included into a toolbox of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
In Germany, tdh conducted the campaign "Straight 18", demanding not to recruit children below the age of 18. The campaign is still ongoing as the German government and military are not yet willing to accept this demand.

2013²: For the first time, the 40 delegates at the 4th DC included six young people representing the International Youth Network founded by terre des hommes in 2011.

Most notably, it was decided that international program activity until 2018 will focus on achieving four strategic goals of equal status:

1. Strengthening the participation of children and young people in all issues and groups relevant to them
2. Creating spaces free from violence and exploitation

² Text taken from the documentation of the DC 2013

3. Calling for the recognition of ecological child rights and their implementation wherever possible
4. Advocating for child rights to be taken into account in national and international policy-making

Furthermore, the Delegates Conference adopted two forward-looking focal themes, which terre des hommes and its partners worked on intensively in the next years:

- Alternative models of welfare and development
- Children's right to play

An initiative of the International Youth Network was also welcomed and approved unanimously: November now stands in our diaries as the month of international action for children's rights - The Global Action Month (GAM).

Shortly before the DC, on 3 October, there was a tragic shipwreck off the Italian island of Lampedusa drowning more than 300 migrants from Africa. Thereupon the Delegates Conference passed a resolution appealing to the German federal government and the European Union to drop the policy of securing the EU's external borders by military means. The DC called for a humanitarian refugee policy based on international commitments such as the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Geneva Convention) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and for special protection of minors seeking refuge.

The Delegates Conference is an element of the partner dialogue and joint decision-making which have been part of terre des hommes' international activities and cooperation for over 20 years. This model has borne a variety of fruit, but it also involves challenges. The practical experience gained with it and the resultant ideas for strengthening the model are the topic of a further decision by the upcoming DC.

3 The Path to the Delegates Conference 2018

Until when?	What?	Newsletter
May 2017	<p>Each group/region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ has elected the delegates ➔ has communicated the names of the delegates to StanCom Secretary <p>Invitation letters send out to all delegates by the tdh head offices (in some cases requirement for visa process) including call for further contributions/motions</p>	<p>First newsletter containing: Welcome, basic information, short presentation of all delegates, schedule, guidelines for assessment of existing strategic goals/ focal themes and elaboration of new ones</p>
June 2017	<p>Latest Date for election of all delegates: 22nd of June</p>	
July 2017	<p>Each group/region prepares a regional input (according to guidelines for the development of strategic objectives):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ an assessment of the existing Strategic Goals / Focal Themes ✓ proposals for future Strategic Goals / Focal Themes ✓ a proposal of global campaigns is possible as well <p>A structured form for this exercise can be found on the Datto Drive.</p> <p><u>Do not forget:</u> Each group/region sends an input to StanCom until 31st of July 2017.</p>	
August 2017	<p>Feedback of Heads of Department regarding candidates for partners' tour until latest 30th of August</p>	
October 2017	<p>Head Office of tdh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ compiles documentation of what was achieved within the existing strategic goals/ focal themes and the implementation of DC's 2013 decisions and sends it to StanCom before 26th of October <p>StanCom ...</p>	<p>Second newsletter containing: Information on process of compiling the inputs into one first draft, communication of preliminary agenda and the topics of the DC, more details on the process for handing in further motions (not referring to Strategic Objectives or Focal Themes)</p>

Until when?	What?	Newsletter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ compiles inputs ✓ meets on October 26 – 28, 2017 ✓ discusses the assessments of existing strategic goals/ focal themes and the proposals for future strategic goals/ focal themes 	
November 2017	<p>StanCom...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ prepares a first draft of future strategic goals/ and sends them out until latest 30th of November (send to StanCom secretary, who will include it into the third newsletter) <p>Head Office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Includes feedbacks of StanCom into first draft of the summary of the implementation of DC's decisions <p><u>Do not forget:</u> Your flights should be reserved or booked, medical insurance for Germany bought (obligatory for entering Germany), Visa solicitation done (if necessary) until latest the end of November.</p> <p>If this has not been done yet: Please contact tdh regional offices that will assist you and book the flights, if this has not been done yet.</p> <p>Of course, costs for the participation are covered by tdh.</p>	Third newsletter , containing: First draft of future Strategic Goals / and Evaluation of achievements within the actual goals and focal themes
December 2017 – March 2018	<p>All delegates and stakeholder groups ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ discussion of the first draft for Strategic Goals ✓ discussion of first draft of documentation on achievements, implementation of DC 2013 decisions 	

Until when?	What?	Newsletter
	Do not forget: All regions/ delegate groups send their feedback and comments on the first draft and evaluation of achievements to StanCom secretary until March 15, 2018.	
March/ April 2018	StanCom ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ compiles feedback from the delegates and constituencies ✓ meets (if necessary) in March/ April 2018 ✓ prepares a StanCom motion ✓ collect/reviews all contributions/motions from the various constituencies 	
May 2018	1st of May final deadline to hand in other motions (not directly related to strategic objectives) Second and final draft of evaluation of achievements and future strategic goals ready as well as set of reviewed motions ready	Fourth newsletter , containing: Second and final draft of proposal for future strategic goals, second and final draft of documentation of achievements within the actual strategic goals and focal themes, All other motions
June 20 - 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 20th of June: Latest arrival of all partner delegates ✓ 21st of June: Face to Face meeting of all partner delegates before the conference 21st of June: Arrival of all delegates	
June 22 – 24, 2018	Delegates Conference discuss the StanCom motion for future strategic goals make revisions if necessary ad-hoc motions possible ➤ All delegates decide on future strategic goals/ focal themes for international program activities as well as other motions e.g. on joint campaigns and resolutions	
August	24th of August: Latest Date to send out DC documentation	Fifth and final newsletter , containing: Documentation of the Delegates Conference

4 With our heads in the clouds: Datto Drive - an online tool (cloud storage) for the exchange before the Delegates Conference

This cloud file-system is set up to enable access to and exchange of documents relating to the DC-process in the run-up to the Delegates Conference 2018. The intention is also to enable work on documents collaboratively.

There are no restrictions on access rights of usage concerning folders and files in this cloud, everyone can create a new folder and upload files comparable to the file-system of your computer. (Cf. the menu appearing with a left-click on "..."). Likewise, everybody has access to all folders. **Folders and files can also be renamed and deleted, so please be careful in using this feature.**

Entering datto drive you will find four basic folders you can access:

- Basics for Everyone: Here you find important documents with general information such as the Delegates Order of the DC, Rules of Procedure for the DC or the documentation of the DC 2013. **Please do not delete or change anything in this folder!**
- Discussions: In this folder, you can create new sub-folders for discussions with everybody. Please choose clear names for the folders, stating the topic of discussion (e.g. "Child Soldiers"). Within the folders, you can upload documents on the topics, so that everybody can see them.
- StanCom: This folder contains the minutes of StanCom meetings
- Stakeholders: Within the Stakeholder folder, you find sub-folders for each stakeholder group (project partners divided by regions, presidium, volunteers, etc.). By uploading documents in your respective sub-folders you can exchange within your delegate group.

Important: If you are commenting or changing a document, working on the same file with a few people, please upload up a new version and number it, each time you change or comment. Leave the Original as Version 0, for instance:

- 0_proposal new strategic goal
- 1_proposal new strategic goal (commented by Jens)
- 2_proposal new strategic goal (commented by Jens and Edgar)

You can access the system via this link:

<https://tdh-cloud.dattodrive.com/index.php/s/uzkxqygUoa0qqnI>

Password: tdhDK2018

Important: Do not publish the password in the internet or pass it on to persons who are not delegates. By using this password, everybody can access the cloud storage.

5 What's Up next?

Do not forget: Each group/region sends an input to StanCom until 31st of July 2017.

Step I) As a first step and before heading towards the future, we want to look back into the past! This means that we want to assess the experience working with the set of existing strategic goals and focal themes of terre des hommes. What did we achieve towards the strategic goals? What was the strength of the goals? Which weaknesses did we experience? What changes did we generate for and with children in distress? What should be considered from this experience for the future? Please find our questionnaire in the annex, Step I, which will guide you in answering these questions!

Furthermore, we need to analyse the current context of our work and the conditions for our work for and with poor and marginalized children. Are the current strategic goals for the international program (SGIP) and focal themes responding to the existing global, regional and local challenges? Which topic should we put more emphasis on? Should we focus on new thematic issues and approaches? How can we function in innovative ways? What is not needed any longer?

Step II: The reflection on the past experiences and the context we are working in will lead us to conclusions: What will be our strategic goals for the period from 2018 until 2023 when terre des hommes will hold the next delegates conference? In order to explore this question, please find the questionnaire in the annex under Step II!

Step III: StanCom will need to receive the results of these two steps until July 31, 2017 in order to prepare a first draft for future strategic goals. This draft will be submitted for discussion by all stakeholder groups before the end of November 2017. You will find the process schedule in the annex, too.

For further information please see the Guidelines for the Elaboration of Strategic Goals in the annex.

On the process for handing in other motions, not directly related to strategic Objectives of Focal themes, we will inform in more detail in the next newsletter.

6 Glossary – The ABC of the Delegates Conference

Do you speak “tdh”? For newcomers the tdh jargon and DC process can be confusing. Therefore, we have put together a glossary, explaining the most important terms and processes.

A

Areas of Autonomy of tdh Germany

By establishing the Delegates Conference, tdh has decided to give its stakeholders a share in important decisions on the *international program activity* of the organization. However, other fields of internal decisions of terre des hommes Germany are not covered by the mandate of the Delegates Conference. (See *Delegates Conference*).

Tdh Germany is an independent, autonomous organization. Within the autonomy of the organization lie, for example, the decisions of its General Assembly, all operational decisions, decisions on approval and funding of projects, Human Resource Management, decisions about fundraising, decisions on working in a certain region or country (though the DC can be consulted).

B

Board (tdh)

The Executive Board of tdh is responsible for the management of the association and leads the Head Office of tdh in Germany and its offices in the regions. The board is responsible for implementing the strategy and strategic decisions of tdh and consists of three persons, each responsible for one of the three departments within the head office: Ursula Gille-Boussahia (Administration Department), Jörg Angerstein (Communication Department), Albert Recknagel (Program Department).

C

(Joint) Campaigns of tdh and its partner organizations

Joint campaigns comprise activities that lobby, advocate and sensitize internationally on a topic that is important to tdh and its partner organizations. Proposed campaigns should have specific goals and ideas on how to achieve them on an international level. The topic of the campaign should be urgent and equally important for all delegates groups and regions. Both tdh and its partner organization should be willing to invest time and other resources in such a campaign.

Unlike the strategic goals, joint campaigns are an “extra” to tdh’s work.

D

Delegates Conference of tdh Germany

At the Delegates Conference (DC) all groups supporting tdh Germany – the volunteer members, the project partners, the international youth network and the staff – shall take part in the adoption of all fundamental decisions on the *international program activities* of tdh. The DC meets regularly every five years.

According to the terre des hommes statutes, the Delegates Conference decides on:

- the strategic goals of international project work
- joint campaigns by the association in cooperation with project partners
- common focal themes relevant to all groups of delegates
- resolutions on important international issues

Accordingly, motions may be submitted in these four areas of its mandate.

Delegates

The Delegates Conference consists of 42 delegates with equal rights:

- 12 Delegates of the Volunteers in Germany
- 12 Delegates of the the Partner Organizations from South Asia, South East Asia, Central America, South America, Africa, Europe
- 6 Delegates from the International Youth Network
- 6 Delegates of the tdh staff

- 3 Delegates of the tdh-Presidium
- 3 Delegates of the tdh Executive Board

Delegates Order

Regulations that determine the criteria for being delegates and general rules of the election process. Latest Version decided upon by the tdh General Assembly in 2011

E

Election Orders

Each group of delegates can adopt an election order, further specifying the process of the election of delegates.

F

Focal Themes

Focal themes refer to possible fields of activities or approaches, which are not yet sufficiently elaborated on or specific enough to be considered as a strategic goal, but should be further examined or studied by tdh.

Focal themes are intended to increase knowledge and the framing of joint positions, reflected e.g. in the production of publications such as brochures or preparation of a new strategic goal. If you propose a focal theme you should be sure to clearly state why it is necessary, relevant and urgently required.

G

General Assembly (tdh)

The organizational form of tdh Germany is that of an association.

Each year, all volunteer members of tdh meet in the General Assembly, the highest body of tdh Germany. Jointly they take important decisions on the work of tdh and every three years they elect the Presidium that consists of volunteer members as well and supervises the executive board.

I

International program activities (of tdh and partners)

International program activities embrace the joint work of terre des hommes and its partners aiming to improve the situation of marginalized children. It includes project support and cooperation, policy dialogue, campaigns, networking, lobby and advocacy efforts in the Global North and South. Projects and programs in Germany are considered part of the international program activities.

M

Motions to the Delegates Conference

Motions are the proposals to be voted on by the *Delegates Conference*.

There are two instances to table proposals/ motions:

1. Regular motions must be available to StanCom at least 45 days before the DC starts. In case of motions for new Strategic Goals or Focal themes, StanCom receives proposals from the different groups and compiles them to comprehensive draft motions, which can then be commented on again by all groups. Afterwards, a second and final set of draft motions, allowing for all the feedback, is drawn up by StanCom and proposed as motions to the DC. Of course, all groups also can make alternative motions on strategic goals and focal themes, but the process via the StanCom is meant to facilitate creating consensus at an early stage.
2. The second instance to propose motions is during the Delegates Conference. This allows for flexibility and to react to the discussions during the conference. Motions made during the DC must be signed by at least one third of present delegates and refer to the topics discussed during the DC (with the exception of urgent matters that have arisen after the closing date for motions).

All Motions to the DC must meet the following criteria:

- Comply with the DC's scope of decision
- Contain elements of activities to implement them (action oriented, not merely theoretic discussions)
- Be submitted or seconded by StanCom, Presidential Board, Executive Board, tdh's General Assembly, at least two regional partner platforms or one of the delegate groups (Partner Organizations, International Youth Network, Volunteers, Staff).

P

Partner Dialogue

Internally, the model of participation of stakeholders in terre des hommes Germany is referred to as the "Partner Dialogue".

Interestingly, Partner Organizations and terre des hommes frequently use this term, though no one ever clearly and officially defined the term.

The usage of the phrase "Partner Dialogue" can be split into three levels:

1. Project relation: Organizations become partner organizations of terre des hommes through a project relation, generally defined by financial support by terre des hommes.

2. Dialogue and technical exchange: Within the regional partner platforms and meetings, partner organizations, tdh staff but also the Youth Network exchange on technical issues of their work. Another international dialogue platform is the International Youth Network.
3. Institutionalized Co-Decision: On the international Delegates Conference of tdh, project partners, volunteers, members of the youth network, management and staff jointly decide on the strategic goals and focal themes of terre des hommes international program work.

The first two levels are common in international co-operation, the third level of co-decision is unique to terre des hommes Germany.

Presidium (tdh)

Five volunteer members of tdh form the Presidium (sometimes also referred to as “Presidential Board”). It may be compared to a supervisory board in a company. The Presidium is responsible for basic decisions on strategic orientation and policies of tdh. Current members are: Edgar Marsh (chair), Regina Hewer (vice chair), Oliver Haller, Dr. Richard Hartmann and Joshua Hofert.

R

Resolutions of the Delegates Conference

Resolutions are political declarations and demands made by the Delegates Conference. The DC 2013 for instance has issued such declaration on the EU’s migration politics, demanding reforms.

Rules of Procedure for the Delegates Conference

Rules that determine how the process of the Delegates Conference should work. They are adopted by the Delegates Conference itself (latest Version: 6th of October 2013)

S

StanCom – the Standing Committee of the Delegates Conference

The Standing Committee works between the Delegates Conferences. It has the following tasks:

- Preparing the shape and content of the DC
- Examining the motions before the DC and during the conference
- Following up the implementation of DC decisions
- Passing on the results of the StanCom meetings to the appropriate delegate group

The different groups of delegates are equally represented in StanCom. The members of the current StanCom are: Britta Gohl (volunteer, Germany), Uwe Herrmann (volunteer, Germany), Regina Hewer (volunteer, Germany), Edgar Marsh (Presidential Board, , Germany), Corinna Baum (Project Partner, Germany), Joshua Hofert (International Youth Network, Germany), David Ordenes (Project Partner, Latin America), Veronica Nhemachena (Project Partner Southern Africa), Saraswathi Kuruvalli (Project Partner South Asia), Ingrid Mendonca (Staff, India), Albert Recknagel (Executive Board, Germany)

StanCom is supported in the tdh head office by Jens Kunischewski (coordination, j.kunischewski@tdh.de).

Statutes of tdh Germany

The statutes are the “constitution” of terre des hommes Germany and can only be modified by the General Assembly of the German volunteer members of tdh with a qualified majority. In 2000, the volunteer members decided to let staff, project partners and the International Youth network have their share in important decisions on the international program activities by creating the Delegates Conference. The Delegates Conference has been included as an official tdh body in the statutes.

Strategic Goals

The international program activities of tdh are guided by strategic goals, which are decided on by the Delegates Conference for a period of five years. Tdh has to focus its work on these strategic goals and report on their fulfillment. Therefore, they also define the focus of the collaboration of tdh with other organizations (e.g. project partners).

StanCom defined the following criteria to be met by Strategic Goals:

1. ... to answer to the question:
“What do we want to achieve for and with children within the next 5 years?”
2. ... to describe the intended change to be achieved, not the planned activity.
3. ... to have international relevance.
4. ... to have a good chance to be reached within the 5-years-time period or to achieve measurable improvement, respectively.
5. ... to be related to the vision, mandate and mission of terre des hommes Germany.
6. ... to be related to the context analysis.
7. ... to be relevant for all terre des hommes stakeholders carrying out activities.
8. ... to be comprehensible for new partners, new volunteers, new staff and interested persons who are not familiar with terre des hommes.
9. ... to respond to the specific profile of terre des hommes Germany.
10. ... to have indicators or milestones that are measurable and relevant to grassroots people.

T

Terre des Hommes International Federation (TDHIF)

The international federation of terre des hommes is a federation of ten independent national terre des hommes organizations.

Within the cooperation, the different organizations have a regular exchange and cooperate in certain issues, like, for instance, international campaigns (e.g. Destination Unknown, Children Win).

The Delegates Conference is a body of tdh Germany and its decisions do not (directly) affect TDHIF.

W

Volunteer Working Groups of terre des hommes Germany

In about 100 communities in Germany, volunteer members work for tdh. They organize cultural or political events, inform and raise awareness on child rights issues and the national and international work of tdh. Furthermore, they do fundraising and join in thematic discussions on the topics and positioning of tdh.

In Memoriam: Werner Lamottke

Our colleague Werner played an important role in the preparation of the last two Delegates Conferences. He tragically passed away in 2014.

He will be deeply missed at the DC 2018, but surely his spirit will be present.

