

Guidelines for Church Endorsement

1. General Introduction

- 1.1 Requests for project or program support submitted to the LWF must be endorsed by either:
 - 1.1.1 a member church of the LWF in the country (for projects) or region (for programs) concerned, or a LWF recognized congregation;
 - 1.1.2 a member church/LWF recognized congregation in a neighbouring country, if there is no member church in the country or region concerned;
 - 1.1.3 a LWF National Committee or a LWF regional body (e.g. LUCSA, KALME, etc.);
 - 1.1.4 a recognized ecumenical body (e.g. National Christian Councils, All Africa Conference of Churches, etc.).
- 1.2 The endorsement is needed to ensure that all requests for support through the LWF are:
 - 1.2.1 in line with the policies, priorities and needs of the member churches or ecumenical bodies;
 - 1.2.2 screened by the member churches or ecumenical bodies before they are submitted to the LWF.
- 1.3 The endorsement entails certain responsibilities in relation to the accompaniment of projects and programs supported through the LWF. If necessary, the endorsing body may be called upon by the LWF to cooperate in the smooth running of endorsed projects and programs.
- 1.4 Programs initiated by LWF staff must be submitted to the relevant Program Committee and endorsed by the Council.

2. Endorsement of church-owned projects

- 2.1 By a church-owned project is understood a project which is administered and implemented by a member church (either a Central Office, a Synod, a Diocese or a Congregation) or an institution of that church.
- 2.2 The member churches themselves decide which person, office or body of the church may endorse project applications to the LWF and which procedures are to be followed. The LWF can accept only those endorsements made in accordance with the established procedures of the member churches.

3. Endorsement of church-recommended projects

- 3.1 By a church-recommended project is understood a project administered and implemented by organizations or institutions not belonging to the church, but endorsed by the church for support through the LWF.
- 3.2 Normally, the endorsing church should have some involvement in or responsibility for projects it endorses, but which are implemented by others, to be specified in the application.
- 3.3 Nevertheless, in special cases, a member church may not, for political or other reasons, be able to be directly or actively involved in a given project, even if it is of relevance for the church and its members and has been endorsed by the church.

4. Endorsement of ecumenical projects

- 4.1 By ecumenical projects are understood projects administered and implemented by recognized national or regional ecumenical bodies. Normally, such projects should also be endorsed by one or more LWF member church(es) in the country or region concerned.
- 4.2 The endorsement of projects by ecumenical bodies should be based on the same criteria which apply to LWF member churches.

5. Endorsement of requests for program support

Requests for support from the various program funds administered by the Department for Mission and Development must also be endorsed by a member church, a LWF National Committee, a LWF regional body or a recognized ecumenical body in accordance with their established procedures. The LWF cannot respond to requests from individuals or church groups which are submitted directly.

6. Endorsement of participants at LWF meetings.

Member churches should be asked to endorse participants in LWF organized or sponsored events in accordance with established policies on participation (balance of lay, women and youth participation). In some events, member churches may be asked to nominate persons. For other events, especially if they require a number of different kinds of expertise, the LWF may propose names to the member churches.