

Welcome address:

Excellencies, Generals, Admirals, Ladies & Gentlemen, dear friends.

This is the official welcome to this years AMI-conference in Nairobi from the presidency.

Our conferences mainly held in Europe developed over the years a character of a family-reunion with one speaker.

With the elections in Lithuania last year the “old” AMI-times ended. The former generation, here to mention Col Bringmann, General König, General Landl, General Naldi, General Baguer and a lot of other very noble gentlemen did a very good job. As a result we find AMI in good shape and can start with further, into the future directed steps. For this I would like to thank all our predecessors very much.

But first of all I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the Kenya armed forces, their military bishop Dr. Rotich and the Kenya organisation committee for preparing this meeting in such a perfect manner.

This conference is a special conference for me and for AMI.

For me because it is the first conference as president and for AMI it is the first conference ever held in Africa.

So, it’s a great honour for me to welcome the LtGen NJOROGE the Kenya army cdr who is our host together with the KENYA Military bishop Dr Rotich and MajGen OPIYO the chairman of the organisation committee, who prepared the conference so well.

At the beginning I was afraid that participation would be less, because of the big distance between most of the AMI-countries in Europe and Africa and the travelling costs related to this, but all the more I’m happy to welcome the delegations from:

- Austria, Belgium, Germany, Kenya, Lithuania, Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland and the UK.

- As twelfth country the Nuntius from the Vatican will take part.

New for everybody is surely the length of the conference. 7 days are a lot - remembering the discussion in Bratislava to shorten the duration of the conference.

However, in April when I stayed here discussing our program with the organisation committee they convinced me that for this beautiful country and the long trip to come here we had to develop a program which includes almost everything.

The beauty of the country and the culture we are going to meet plus enough working time will make this conference to more than just a family reunion.

All together I think 7 days are not too much and they are justified.

More about the program and some new ideas tomorrow.

For now I wish us and the conference successful days, days which should be created by the delegations and the delegates and not only by the presidency. Thank you for coming and may god be with us.