



# International Academy of Mediators

## Zurich Conference Planning Committee Report

The planning committee has met already twice this year and has discussed different topics:

### 1. General time schedule

Shall we extend the length of the conference or not. After there were some feedbacks suggesting the extension of the conference to allow more time for the informal exchange between or outside of sessions.

The planning committee concluded that we suggest the board to stick to the given three day schedule for the conference. There were different reasons for this, here just two of them:

- a) The SCCM (Swiss Chamber of Commercial Mediation) as joint venture partner for this conference will encourage its members to join the conference. 2,5 days of conference for 850/950 \$ is a high price. If the participants would have to leave their work for longer than two full working days, it becomes even more expensive.
- b) For the local participants the content of the conference is important. If too much time is dedicated to sightseeing, informal exchange, or similar activities, it becomes difficult to sell it to locals.

### 2. Theme

The planning committee discussed different themes for the conference and ultimately agreed on the following theme:

**Resolving Conflicts with Heart and Mind – the Value of Sharing Experience**

### 3. Hybrid Conference

We have started the discussion on whether and if so, to what extent the conference should be accessible online. This topic has not been concluded so far. We are still clarifying the costs that may be involved with this. We have not agreed yet on what to recommend to the board. It is work in progress.

There were different possibilities discussed:

- no hybrid at all
- recording only some plenary session that can be watched online
- live online access for plenary sessions only (no recording)
- live online access to plenary sessions plus *separate* focus groups for online participants only (no recording)
- live online access to plenary sessions and group sessions (no recording)
- live online access plus recording

**Next steps:**

General conference schedule

General topics to cover

sub-committees for certain parts of the conference

James Peter/7<sup>th</sup> September 2022