



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Office of the
General Secretary

lutheranworld.org

To:
H.E. Permanent Representative of China,
H.E. Permanent Representative of France,
H.E. Permanent Representative of Russia,
H.E. Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom,
H.E. Permanent Representative of the United States of America

Geneva, 6 July 2020

Your Excellencies,

Strengthen efforts towards a global ceasefire to enable action on COVID-19

I am writing to you on behalf of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and its 148 member churches, representing over 75.5 million Christians in 99 countries.

The LWF is very concerned about the continuing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it has on people all around the world. As a leading humanitarian organization working in cooperation with the UNHCR to protect millions of refugees in the world, the LWF is painfully aware how on-going armed conflicts and hostilities in different parts of the world represent a significant impediment to stopping the spread of the virus and protecting people and communities.

We are encouraged by the 1 July decision of the UN Security Council in its Resolution 2532 (2020) to support the UN Secretary General's appeal for a global ceasefire to help the efforts to fight COVID-19 in the most vulnerable countries. Already on 11 May, the LWF together with our partner Islamic Relief Worldwide issued a statement to support this important effort.

Continued violent and armed conflict severely constrains the efforts of local, national, and international organizations to protect refugees, displaced people, women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups from the spread of the virus. As a faith-based organization engaged in life-saving and community empowering work, we are convinced that war and violence do not solve conflicts, but exacerbate them. We will always call for peaceful means to achieve justice and life in dignity for all.

We call on you, as permanent members of the UN Security Council, to strengthen the efforts of the Council and to provide leadership towards the implementation of Resolution 2532 (2020) and its call for an immediate cessation of all hostilities to enable a robust COVID-19 response.

The LWF stands ready to support you while we continue our own efforts to support, protect and stand in solidarity with members of communities who are most vulnerable to conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Martin Junge
General Secretary

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