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Rev. Simione Tugi Fiji Council of Churches 18, MacArthur Street Government Building P.O. Box 2300 Suva Fiji

Geneva, February 23, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

I write to you in the aftermath of the devastating cyclone which has caused tremendous damage throughout Fiji. Those of us who are far away can only imagine the extent of destruction and loss caused by such a storm. We know that the needs of the people impacted by the storm are great, and pray that immediate necessities of health care and safe housing can be met.

As a council, you have a mission as leaders to speak and work together in offering comfort and spiritual guidance as people begin to assess the damage and rebuild their lives. I hope the fellowship that you share as churches will strengthen your efforts to meet these needs.

I offer to God the prayers of the World Council of Churches as you live out your calling to Christian unity and public witness and service. We are reminded often in the ecumenical movement that we share always in one another's suffering and hope. We pray that you are able to be a voice of hope for those who are in pain. Please know that Christians around the world stand with you in solidarity.

May you as a council be given vision and strength as you remind the faithful of the assurance of God's love and mercy.

Yours in our Common Lord,

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Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit General Secretary