



World Council of Churches

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Rev. Dr h.c. Cornelia FÜLLKRUG-WEITZEL

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"I urge you to put yourselves at the service of such people, and of everyone who works and toils with them." 1 Corinthians 16.16

Dear Cornelia,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

On behalf of the WCC fellowship of churches and on behalf of my colleagues at the WCC, it is my privilege to offer some words of gratitude for your faithful service to the ecumenical movement as you celebrate your retirement.

Your leadership has spanned decades and you have inspired countless churches, ecumenical partners and people of faith to work together for justice and peace.

When St Paul says, *"I urge you to put yourselves at the service of such people, and of everyone who works and toils with them"*, he is speaking about Stephanas an important leader in the early church. St Paul is grateful to Stephanus because he brought something to Corinth that was "lacking", something that was needed to share Gospel.

You have been like Stephanas to many of us. Your leadership has provided something that was needed to more effectively share the love of Christ with all who are in need. And you have encouraged many to "work and toil" for the same, so that all may have life in fullness.

You have helped the ecumenical movement maintain the ministry of 'churches helping churches' through acts of sharing and common prayer. You have helped strengthen the churches' commitment to *diakonia* and development, seeking a sustainable future for all. You have ensured that humanitarian assistance is delivered professionally and with compassion.

Your contribution to the work of the WCC has been manifold. Since the Busan Assembly in 2013, you provided leadership to the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and spearheaded the women of faith pilgrim team visit. You helped strengthened relations with specialized ministries and cooperation between the WCC and ACT Alliance. We are thankful that you continue with the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs.

We give thanks to God for your ministry and for your friendship.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă
Acting General Secretary
World Council of Churches