



World Council of Churches

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Geneva, July 5, 2021

Ms Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General
United Nations Conference on Trade
and Development

Dear Ms Grynspan,

The World Council of Churches (WCC), a fellowship of 350 churches representing over 500 million Christians in 110 countries, would like to offer our heartfelt congratulations on your appointment as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

As the first woman and Central American to take the helm of UNCTAD, we believe that you are in a particularly good position to recognise and represent the necessity of establishing a fair and transparent global trading and financial system that “leaves no one behind” and protects the ecological commons for current and future generations.

We recall and value your efforts in your former roles as Vice President of Costa Rica, Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and Secretary-General of the Ibero-American General Secretariat to tackle poverty through comprehensive social policies, to promote South-South cooperation, and to advance women’s rights and leadership.

As a faith-rooted organisation the WCC envisions a life-affirming economy for all, that espouses climate and gender justice. As such, we continue to advocate for fairer trade rules, the cancellation of illegitimate external debts of low-and middle-income countries, and an overhaul of the international taxation system, among others.

In this connection, we look forward to walking and working with UNCTAD on the urgent agenda of making international trade, finance and development more equitable and sustainable, especially in responding to the interconnected health, economic and ecological crises confronting humanity today.

As you step into your new position, please be assured of our partnership and prayers for your and UNCTAD’s success in fostering a just and green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respectfully yours,

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