



# World Council of Churches

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Church of Norway  
Most Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit  
Presiding Bishop, Church of Norway

Christian Council of Norway  
Rev. Erhard Hermansen, General Secretary

Geneva, 16 August 2023

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have followed closely news of the strong winds and heavy rains, swollen rivers, landslides and flooding, the evacuations, the damaged infrastructure and disruptions to transportation that have ensued from Norway's most powerful storm in a generation.

You know, of course, but I wish wholeheartedly to emphasize that we in the entire global fellowship of the World Council of Churches are distressed at the news and are holding you and all the people of Norway and its church communities close in our prayers and concern, as your country and its people face the aftermath of Storm Hans and begin to heal and recover from its damage and disruption.

We are grateful that you and the churches are on hand to offer solace and support, to extend both material and spiritual aid to those most affected by the storms, and to serve as a beacon and a refuge to all in need.

I do not know whether or to what extent this storm system is attributable to climate change as such. But the duration and intensity of this weather system are akin to the many fresh and disastrous assaults by climate-related conditions we have seen in recent months in many regions and most recently in China and Hawaii. Indeed, this season of calamity has gripped the globe and delivered unprecedented extremes to many regions and massive misery to people everywhere: from Europe and North America to Asia, Africa, and Australia.

These disasters stiffen our resolve to work relentlessly with you, the whole Church of Norway, the Christian Council of Churches and its agencies and partners for the prevention and mitigation of climate change in Scandinavia and elsewhere. Fulfilling the mandate of the 11th Assembly, we have also identified addressing climate change, its causes and consequences, as an urgent and ongoing programmatic priority for the council and its global membership.

As you begin to gauge the full extent of this tragedy and look to the long struggle ahead please know that, across the whole fellowship — we Christians stand united with you in our firm faith in a loving God.

*God of Life, lead us to climate justice and peace!*

Yours in Christ,

Marianne Ejdersten  
Acting General Secretary  
(during the vacation period)