



# World Council of Churches

**General Secretariat**

150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100  
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
Phone: +41 22 791 6111 Fax: +41 22 791 0361  
Email: infowcc@wcc-coe.org www.oikoumene.org

Direct phone: +41 22 791 6285  
Direct e-mail: dcb@wcc-coe.org

Geneva, July 19, 2017

## **Condolences on the death of Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat**

Condolence letter from the WCC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit on the death of Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat, former Moderator of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA).

**Dear Mrs HONORINE KIPLAGAT and family,**

I am writing on behalf of the World Council of Churches to express our heartfelt condolences on the passing of Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat.

Amb. Kiplagat was a true Ambassador of peace and reconciliation and a successful career diplomat who played crucial roles in the lives of many, both in his country, Kenya, and in the East African region and the continent of Africa at large. His service as chairman of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) of his country was a true testimony to his dedication for peace and harmony among the Kenyan society.

Amb. Kiplagat had a distinguished record in conflict resolution efforts in the continent. Beyond Kenya, he also facilitated historic dialogues among warring parties in Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia and Sudan that all culminated in negotiated settlements. He has also been a valuable and willing resource person to civil society organizations who also established and chaired the African Peace Forum to help crusade peace building and reconciliation efforts in the continent.

Amb. Kiplagat successfully served as the moderator of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) of the World Council of Churches from 1998-2006. As moderator of the CCIA, he brought keen theological and public witness perspectives and vast experiences from the life of his public service. As a moderator, he worked tirelessly to defend and promote human rights.

He was a highly respected and beloved leader within the global ecumenical movement. His faith and sense of dedication reflected a deep commitment and calling to serve in the life of the church, not only within his own denomination, but to the global fellowship. His focus on issues of justice has been, and will continue to be, an inspiration to the council.

I have had the privilege to get to know him personally and I got a deep respect for him and his faith and his work for justice and peace.

I would like to extend my sympathy to his wife and the whole Kiplagat family who mourn, and pray for peace and comfort at this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. The WCC prays that his memory will inspire many and his legacy will continue to endure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olav Fykse Tveit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit  
General Secretary