



World Council of Churches

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General Secretariat

Dear Rev. Gomar Gultom, General Chairperson of The Communion of Churches in Indonesia, your Eminences, Your Graces, Dear colleagues and friends of the wider ecumenical movement,

The World Council of Churches joins you in this celebration of seventy years of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia. Together we celebrate your joint work for unity, justice, peace and the dignity of all.

When I reflect on the Communion of Churches in Indonesia and its contribution to the ecumenical movement during the last seventy years since 1950, I see its obedient discipleship in Christ and its prophetic witness for peace and non-violent action as decisive marks of your contribution. You constantly remind the ecumenical movement of the preferential option for non-violence as a response to Christ's love and God's gift of justice and peace as signs of God's reign to come.

The PGI has united churches in Indonesia in faith and witness. It represented the prophetic voices of the churches that have steadfastly spoken truth to power; it has offered solidarity; and has contributed to the Indonesian identity and fellowship in new periods through faith in the God of life.

Many look to you and listen to you for signs and words of truth and hope. Your prayers and faithful accompaniment have been a source of endurance for those whom others would categorise as "the least of these".

This month (24-31 May), around the time of Pentecost, the very source of Christian unity, churches in the southern hemisphere will be observing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme for the week of prayer in 2020, "They showed us unusual kindness..." is inspired by Acts 28:2.

At this moment in history, your brothers and sisters in the faith from around the world give thanks to God for your witness and assure you of our continued prayers. Indonesia needs you. The world wide fellowship of churches also needs you. As we appreciate your 70 years, with you, we ponder upon your mission in the years to come and we greet you in the name of the Risen Lord.

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca
Acting General Secretary

Geneva, May 25, 2020