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Resolution on UN Security Council Reform

The LWF Council, meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from 27 June to 2 July, 2018, under the theme “freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8), deliberated and adopted the following message to the LWF member churches:

UN Security Council Reform

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. (Psalm 34:14)

The LWF Council:

- (1) Deeply regrets that the United Nations Security Council has been unable to adequately respond to the crisis in Syria, the Israel–Palestine conflict, the situation in South Sudan, and others,
- (2) Recognizes, at the same time, that the Security Council can only be as strong and effective as its members and the international community want it to be,
- (3) Further recognizes that the Security Council’s lack of response to some of the most flagrant and bloody conflicts today is due to the veto power held by five Member States, which often continue to set their particular geopolitical interests above the common interest and their Charter obligation of maintaining international peace and security,
- (4) Recalling the LWF Council’s 2015 call “upon the United Nations Security Council to suspend the use of the veto power by the Permanent Five members in matters related to preventing or ending genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity,”
- (5) Calls upon the Member Churches and Communion Office to advocate for the UN Security Council reform proposals that stipulate that the veto should not be used in cases of mass atrocities such as crimes against humanity, crimes of genocide and war crimes.