



Protestant Church  
in Switzerland

World Council of Churches  
Dr. Agnès Abuom, Moderator  
Father Dr. Ioan Sauca General Secretary  
150 Rte de Ferney  
PO Box 2100  
1211 Genève 2

Bern, 15 March 2022

### **The war in Ukraine and the WCC**

Ms. Moderator, Dear Ms. Abuom  
Mr. General Secretary, Dear Father Ioan,

In this time of Lent 2022, we experienced in a rare tragic and dreadful way what evil human-kind is able to, and how much we depend on the mercy of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Protestant Church in Switzerland PCS firmly condemns the aggression launched against Ukraine, which endangers peace and security in Europe and violates severely international law.

Therefore, we were thankful to WCC to have quickly condemned this aggression and amplified the voices within the Churches in Ukraine and worldwide that called for an immediate end of this invasion. We appreciated too your efforts and your leadership to call Patriarch Kyrill of the Russian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate to intervene. As fellowship of Churches, and as it was often the case in the history, WCC can't keep silent when one of its directly involved member church keeps silent or minimizes the ongoing tragedy. The unity of the WCC as fellowship of Churches with the same rights and duties is at stake. The fact that Patriarch Kyrill chooses the WCC to make his reaction on the events public has to be noted. Though, his answer doesn't entail any new elements. Therefore, it keeps being shocking for us that a Church gives the impression that there are defensible arguments for this war. Although the long term causes of this conflict are manifold and shared among several actors, such an aggression cannot be justified by any means. The long term impact of this war but also of the current voices of the member Churches of WCC will be significant. We urge, trust and encourage WCC to keep engaging in every possible way with the Russian Orthodox



Protestant Church  
in Switzerland

Church. We wonder for instance if WCC could offer its "good services" to provide a mediation between the different stakeholders in the Russian Orthodox Church and other Orthodox Churches.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Rita Famos

President

Rev. Serge Fornerod

Director of External Relations