



World Council of Churches

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Geneva, May 14, 2021

Rev. Leonardo Schindler
President
Iglesia Evangélica del Río de la Plata

Dear Rev. Schindler,

Thank you for your letter dated 29th April 2021. We are deeply appreciative of your leadership and witness as a WCC member church – the Evangelical Church of the River Plate (Iglesia Evangélica del Río de la Plata) in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

We are grateful for your appreciation for WCC's position on these critical issues. We are ourselves deeply inspired by the stand you are taking, advocating to overcome global injustice and inequity regarding access and affordability of vaccinations to defeat the global COVID-19 pandemic.

We agree with you that no one is safe until everyone is safe. Humanity is one body (*1 Corinthians 12:12*), and if one part of it suffers, it affects the whole body. From our experience in dealing with the HIV pandemic, we have learned the importance of making prevention, treatment and care accessible and affordable for all. We cannot repeat the painful mistakes from the early AIDS response, when people in wealthier countries got back to health, while millions of people in developing countries were left behind. The global COVID-19 pandemic is proving to be a major stress test of multilateral cooperation and human solidarity, and we are at risk of failing it.

However, we are encouraged by the visible stand and advocacy undertaken by the Iglesia Evangélica del Río de la Plata and other WCC member churches. We will continue to make all efforts to highlight the moral and political failure that global vaccine inequity represents. We will strengthen the urgent call for global leadership to overcome this failure, correct this wrong, and redirect joint international efforts towards the 'universal common good' to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is my prayer that under your leadership of the Iglesia Evangélica del Río de la Plata, God will uphold the church as a beacon of hope in the region, witnessing to God's justice and compassion, and championing the causes of and accompanying the weakest and most vulnerable among us. (*Isaiah 1:17; James 1:27*).

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă
Acting General Secretary
World Council of Churches