

## December 2025 Accountability Report

Geneva, 2 January 2026

### **1. Introduction: A word from the general secretary**

Greetings and blessings to you in the name of our Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As WCC Christmas Message said, we are invited into and united in God's holy family. As we enter into 2026, We are not alone in our struggles, pain and suffering. We are connected and interconnected. We are family.

The WCC marked 30 years since the adoption of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, reflecting theologically, contextually, and practically on the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the current global context. The fruit of the consultation, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, focused on "Witnessing and Anticipating Gender Justice in Unity and Diversity."

We continued to highlight voices from very important gatherings and dialogues, including the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order, the 1700th anniversary of the Ecumenical Council at Nicaea, and the UN climate talks (COP30).

It was a joy again to meet with the leaders of the Pentecostal and Evangelical Churches to discuss preparations for the JC 2033 celebrations. It is deeply encouraging to participate and share in the vision of proclaiming Jesus Christ to the world, especially in these challenging and critical times.

The WCC, in a Special Ceremony of Global Alliance, signed a Letter of Intent with the UN Refugee Agency to deepen collaboration, particularly related to stateless people. We reaffirmed our shared commitment to be agents of hope: to protect those forced to flee, particularly those rendered invisible by the crises of our time.

The month of December in brief:

### **2. What we have achieved? Key programmatic work this month**

WCC at Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025: "we reaffirm our shared commitment to be agents of hope"

WCC general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay spoke at a Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025 plenary session on 17 December, noting that, when faith communities unite, hope is transformed into action.

### Dialogue on coexistence explores turning hope into shared public good

During the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025, the WCC joined nearly two dozen other faith-based and community organisations, academics, and refugee-led organisations in a dialogue held on 16 December. The discussion foregrounded refugee and stateless persons' leadership as well as practical, multi-stakeholder approaches that bridge humanitarian, development, and peace agendas.

### "Jesus was a refugee," says Anglican archbishop of Tanzania

Most Rev. Dr Maimbo Mndolwa, archbishop and primate of Tanzania and the Anglican Communion's representative to the Multi-Religious Council of Leaders of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, urged the communion to come together to support refugees.

### Forum for Peace, Reunification, and Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula convenes

Members of the Ecumenical Forum for Korea convened on 16 December, seeking new ways to work for peace in the region.

### Accompaniers meet with European policymakers to highlight urgent issues in Palestine and Israel

WCC ecumenical accompaniers met with members of parliament from Europe from 1-4 December in Brussels, Belgium. Conversations focused on the fact that, while understandably, much of the attention over the past two years has focused on the ongoing impact of Israel's war on Palestinians in Gaza, Palestinians in East Jerusalem have been suffering from situations where the Israeli government and settlers have been able to act with impunity.

### International conference in Berlin strengthens diversity and democracy

The theme "God's Kaleidoscope 3: Embracing Diversity, Strengthening Democracy, Challenging Hostility" was explored by an international conference held in Berlin, Germany, hosted from 4-7 December by the Diocese in Europe of the Church of England, together with the WCC and other ecumenical and international partners.

### Consultation between Judaism, Orthodox Christianity explores "Sanctity of Place, Sanctity of Space"

The 12th International Academic Consultation Between Judaism and Orthodox Christianity was held in Geneva 7-10 December, exploring the theme "Sanctity of Place - Sanctity of Space."

### Nicaea workshop highlights depth, diversity of churches in Egypt and beyond

Bringing together representatives from the churches of Egypt and the wider region, workshop "Nicaea 325–2025: Intra-Christian and Interreligious Dialogue on a Pilgrimage Towards Unity" took place during the WCC Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order in Egypt, held in October.

### Indigenous Peoples reference group visited The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

The Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples Network Reference Group convened on 4-10 December, hosted by The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, which had also organised a program of activities.

### At conference in Ghana, WCC advances equitable HIV response

During the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa—the 23rd edition of the gathering—the WCC shared insights on its work related to HIV response, and how faith-based organisations and churches can do even more.

### WCC deepens commitment to peacebuilding efforts in Colombia

Since the WCC executive committee met in Bogotá in June 2024, the WCC has intensified its engagement in Colombia's ongoing search for peace. As an official Permanent Accompanier in the dialogue between the Government of Colombia and the EMC-FARC (EMBF) guerrilla group, the WCC continues to play a vital role in supporting peaceful solutions to longstanding conflict.

### WCC links climate and racial justice through Living Planet Monitor presentation in Berlin

The WCC presented evidence at the International and Ecumenical Conference on Racial Justice in Berlin this week that communities of colour face the heaviest burden of environmental harm - and that climate justice cannot be achieved without racial justice.

### Declaration focuses on “Witnessing and Anticipating Gender Justice in Unity and Diversity”

Marking 30 years since the adoption of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, participants from the Asia Pacific member churches and partners of the WCC met in Jakarta, Indonesia, to reflect theologically, contextually, and practically on the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the current global context.

### Interfaith panel affirms gender justice as social responsibility and spiritual calling

During an interfaith panel discussion entitled "Re-Reading Our Context – A Call to Faithful Action," held 5 December in Jakarta, Indonesia during a WCC consultation on the 30th anniversary of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, those gathered explore how faith can inspire responsible and transformative action toward gender justice.

### Beijing 30+ Consultation opens: “Our spiritual journey is shaped by the lived realities of women”

A Beijing 30+ Consultation opened in Jakarta, Indonesia on 4 December, marking 30 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

### Beijing 30+ Consultation in Indonesia will underscore WCC’s commitment to gender equality

A Beijing 30+ Consultation took place in Jakarta, Indonesia from 4-6 December, marking 30 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

### Faith and Order study group reflects on love that God has for a broken world

Study Group 3, co-convened by Rev. Preb. Dr Isabelle Hamley, focuses on exploring questions of conflict, violence, justice, peace and reconciliation. They offered an overview of their recent work.

### Faith and Order study group reflects on moral discernment, theological anthropology

One of three study groups within the WCC Commission on Faith and Order, Study Group 2, co-convened by Archbishop Emerita Dr Antje Jackelén and Dr David Kirchhoffer, focuses on moral discernment and theological anthropology.

### Youth explore the role of Christianity in human rights

During a workshop entitled “Human rights: a Christian duty” held 28 November, young people deepened their understanding of how advocacy rooted in faith can influence national and international processes such as the UN Universal Periodic Review, UN treaty body reviews, and Sustainable Development Goal voluntary national reviews.

### Three years, nine states: Brazilian faith communities conclude Tapiri journey at COP30

Thousands gathered at Belém's Batista Campos square as COP30 began, but few international participants knew the journey that brought them there. In three years, dozens of Brazilian faith organisations had crossed nine Amazonian states.

### Steps toward digital justice: how can churches take even more?

During a roundtable discussion entitled “Ecumenical Steps Towards Digital Justice,” held on 3 December, faith-based groups gathered to assess the rapid developments in digital technology, the ethical and justice concerns – as well as opportunities – they raise, and the need for more coordinated advocacy.

### African peoples, women make unique contributions to G20, COP30

As the recent G20 meeting and COP30 climate talks, people of African descent made unique contributions, in and out of the room of negotiations, reported WCC president from North America Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith.

### Advent service deepens portrayal of “Holy Family, Holy Faith”

During an Annual Advent Celebration at the St Hippolyte Roman Catholic Church on 1 December, staff of the WCC, Lutheran World Federation, ACT Alliance, and their families, deepened their reflections on “Holy Family, Holy Faith.”

### Church leaders in Kenya and Zimbabwe unveil disability rights action plans

A three-day training workshop on the domestication and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities concluded in Nairobi on 27 November, with church leaders from Kenya and Zimbabwe, designing action plans for their work in the next two years.

### As global health support dwindles, African Christians urge more national investment

Christian faith and health leaders from sub-Saharan Africa, on 27 November, called for increased national investment and global solidarity to sustain health in the region, while affirming that promoting holistic health was a sacred expression of faith and a central calling of the church.

### 3. Update on communication

#### Features:

##### Exploring the affirmation and call of the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order

Rev. Prof. Dr Stephanie Dietrich, moderator of the WCC Commission on Faith and Order; and Dr Andrej Jeftić, director of the commission, reflected on the Ecumenical Affirmation, entitled “Deepening Unity, Journeying in Love, Restoring Hope,” and the “Call to All Christians: Message of the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order.”

##### Christian Aid CEO: “Only the broadest collaboration will achieve the change”

Patrick Watt is chief executive officer of Christian Aid.

##### Yvan Maillard Ardent, HEKS/EPER: Churches have a role to play for climate justice

Yvan Maillard Ardent, climate justice policy advisor at Swiss Church Aid HEKS/EPER, explained how churches can play a role for climate justice.

##### Prof. Dr Angeliki Ziaka highlights WCC work on interreligious dialogue

Prof. Dr Angeliki Ziaka, WCC programme executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, shared why interreligious dialogue is a priority for the WCC.

##### Beyond Boundaries: Bossey newsletter highlights living ecumenism

The WCC Ecumenical Institute at Bossey released the latest edition of its newsletter, *Beyond Boundaries*.

##### WCC resource “Hope for Children through Climate Justice” now available in French

A resource providing churches and partners with essential legal tools to hold financial actors accountable for their role in the climate emergency is now available in French.

##### French, Hausa versions of obstetric fistula guide now available

“A Guide for Churches on the Prevention of Obstetric Fistula” is now available in French and Hausa.

##### WCC Podcast: Faith communities bring moral voice to COP30 as climate ambition falls short

In the latest WCC podcast, recorded just weeks after COP30 concluded in Belém, Brazil, Athena Peralta, director of the WCC Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development, reflected on the conference's mixed outcomes.

##### Bishop Kortu K. Brown shares how churches can help promote actions against statelessness

Bishop Kortu K. Brown, from the Apostolic Pentecostal Church and Church Aid, Inc., in Liberia reflected on why ending statelessness is the responsibility of churches, and some actions they can take in that direction.

His Eminence Metropolitan Job of Pisidia: "the Nicene faith is the foundation upon which visible unity must be built"

Metropolitan Job of Pisidia of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is the co-president of the Joint International Commission for the theological dialogue between the Roman-Catholic and the Orthodox Church and the vice moderator of the WCC Faith and Order Commission.

Prayer life of WCC executive committee: "love is God's highest attribute"

As the WCC executive committee convened in Hangzhou, China from 20-25 November, the prayer life of the governing body proved to be both dynamic and unique.

New publication to highlight protection of Armenian heritage

A publication emerging from the Armenian Heritage Conference will be officially launched on 21 January 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland, bringing renewed international attention to the protection of Armenian cultural and religious heritage.

#### **4. Update on statements, comments and messages**

23 December: WCC shares greetings with Taizé Community's Pilgrimage of Trust

23 December: WCC congratulates newly elected United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

22 December: WCC endorses Green Investment Declaration

19 December: WCC urges US, EU Commission to engage in safeguarding Palestinians

18 December: Religious leaders call for "Zacchaeus moment" in global tax reform

17 December: WCC Faith and Order director will present lecture on Sixth World Conference

14 December: WCC denounces terrorist attack in Sydney, Australia

13 December: WCC mourns loss of longtime church communicator Tuomo Pesonen

12 December: WCC delegation to attend Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025

12 December: WCC prays for ongoing negotiations for peace in Ukraine

11 December: WCC extends warm Hanukkah greetings to Jewish communities worldwide

10 December: WCC Ecumenical Institute at Bossey opens applications for 2026 Certificate in Interreligious Studies

10 December: On Human Rights Day, WCC urges renewed support for international law

9 December: Churches respond to needs in wake of Hurricane Melissa

9 December: WCC welcomes signing of peace agreement between Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Rwanda

8 December: WCC general secretary attends JC2033 Roundtable in New York

8 December: On World AIDS Day, WCC shares prayers and insights

5 December: WCC Christmas message: “Holy Family, Holy Faith” connects us all

5 December: WCC congratulates general secretary-elect of National Council of Churches in Korea

2 December: Faith leaders invited to apply for Ecumenical School on Economic Justice

1 December: WCC general secretary shares greetings with general secretary-elect of World Evangelical Alliance

1 December: WCC extends congratulations to general secretary-elect of Christian Conference of Asia

1 December: WCC calls for prayers for disaster survivors across Asia

—

The New Year did not have a good start with the tragedy at the ski resort in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, the capture of the President of Venezuela, the continuing wars and conflicts in other parts of the world and numerous challenges that abound. However, we enter 2026 knowing that God is still in control, justice will prevail and peace will come on earth. We know also that God uses us as instruments to keep working for justice and peace in the world and to proclaim the goodness and love we have in Jesus Christ.

Thank you so much for your partnership and support in ministry. May we continue to work for justice, reconciliation and unity in the world as we take seriously the prayer of Jesus in John 17 that we may be one so that the world may believe and know the love of Christ.

Wishing you God’s blessings, peace and wisdom in this New Year in your ministries, work and witness. Don’t forget that we are blessed to be a blessing to others.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay  
General Secretary  
World Council of Churches