



# The Council of Churches in Zambia

CCZ 6PT

All correspondence to be addressed to the General Secretary

02 11 253427

7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Hon. Joseph Malanji  
Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Lusaka



Dear Hon. Malanji

## RE: RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY ON NON PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Fraternal greetings from the Council of Churches in Zambia;

The Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) established in 1914 is an ecumenical umbrella organization of Christian churches that seeks to promote cooperation and fellowship between Christian churches and organizations. Continentally the CCZ is affiliate to the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and globally it is an affiliate of the World Council of Churches (WCC)

We take note that 2020 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki - attacks which devastated these cities causing up to 226,000 deaths immediately and many more in the following years as the effects continued to be felt. Despite commitments made – including under Article 6 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) – nuclear weapon States have continued to maintain and develop their nuclear arsenals, while other States have worked to acquire them.

The First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948 declared that war with atomic weapons was a "sin against God and a degradation of man". As a community of churches in Zambia, we believe that nuclear weapons are intrinsically evil and that they present a unique existential threat to humanity. The number of States possessing nuclear weapons continues to grow, as does the possibility of terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons.

In the early part of 2020, the world as we knew it changed suddenly and radically due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Thousands are dying every day, up to a quarter of the global population is or has been under some level of confinement, national borders have been closed, and economies ground to a halt. In some parts of the world, public health systems and personnel have been completely overwhelmed.

}

The impacts of the current global health crisis share similarities with those of any future nuclear attack. Like the COVID-19 pandemic, the health, environmental and economic consequences of a nuclear explosion could not be contained in the city or country where the attack took place. Nuclear tests have demonstrated that radiation can spread into the atmosphere, oceans, plants and animals, and into whole populations. The pandemic has demonstrated - more than ever - how closely linked our economies are, and how interruptions in one place can impact whole chains of production throughout the world. The same consequences could be expected from a nuclear attack anywhere in the world.

But, unlike a pandemic, we know what we have to do to prevent a nuclear attack. We already have the answer in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted by the United Nations in 2017. To date, 81 countries have signed it and 37 have ratified. Once 50 States have ratified it, it will enter into force.

We urge our government to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again in any circumstances. We want our country to join the growing community of States which have rejected nuclear weapons entirely. **We appeal to you to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.**

We thank you for your attention and look forward to continued productive engagement by the government in the search for sustainable peace and human security.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of the Council of Churches in Zambia

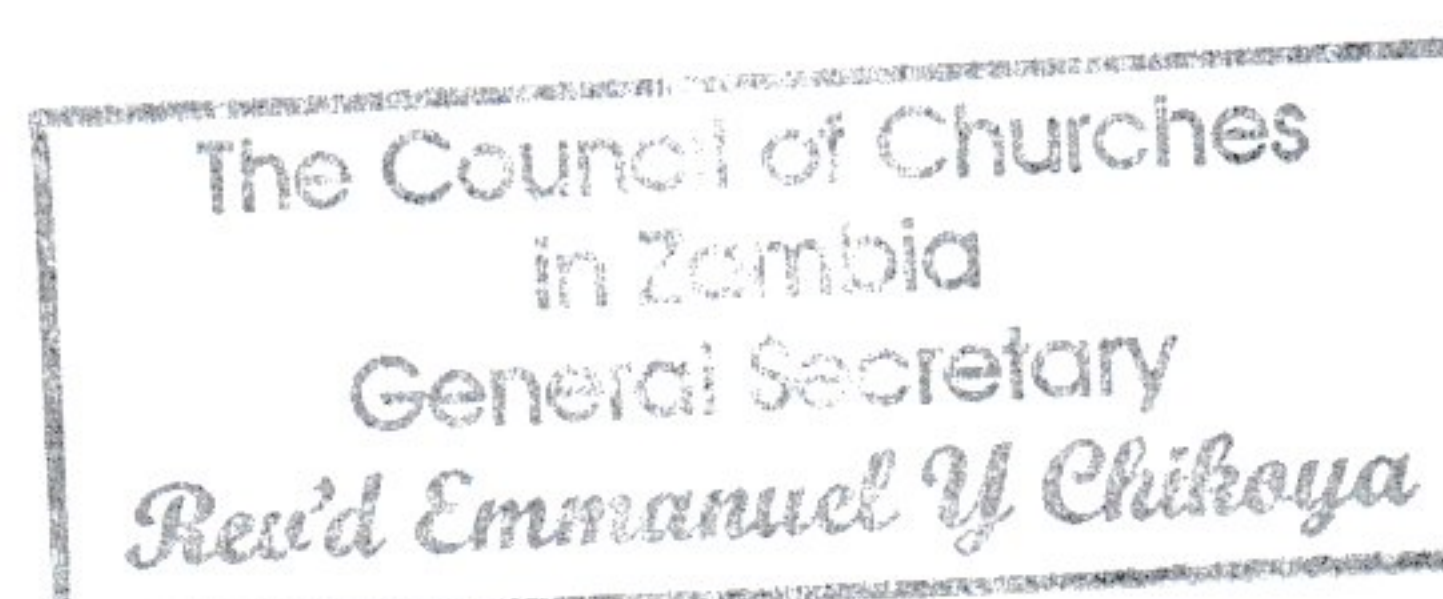


**Rev. Canon Emmanuel Chikoya**

**General Secretary**

**Mobile: +260978518817 & +260956130641**

**Email: [chikoyaemmanuel@ccz.org.zm](mailto:chikoyaemmanuel@ccz.org.zm)**



CC:

Jennifer Philpot-Nissen, Programme Executive, Human Rights and Disarmament, World Council of Churches, [Jennifer.Philpot-Nissen@wcc-coe.org](mailto:Jennifer.Philpot-Nissen@wcc-coe.org)