

Inter-Orthodox Pre-Assembly Consultation Statement

Preamble

1. At the initiative of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and under invitation of H.A.H. the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and with the gracious auspices of H. E. Metropolitan Nathanael of Kos and Nisyros, as representatives of Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches we met in the island of Kos, Greece, from 11 – 17 October, 2012, to reflect on the theme of the 10th WCC Assembly, to prepare ourselves for the Assembly, and to provide our Churches' theological contribution to the WCC Assembly in 2013. The consultation was moderated jointly by H. E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr. Gennadios of Sassima on behalf of the Eastern Orthodox Church and H. E. Metropolitan Mor Eustathius Matta Roham on behalf of the Oriental Orthodox Church.

2. It has been a custom for the last thirty years in the World Council of Churches to convene an Inter-Orthodox consultation prior to its Assemblies. The main purpose of the meeting was to study, discuss and reflect on the main theme and the sub-themes of the next Assembly from an Orthodox perspective in order to serve as preparation for all participants in Busan and to express our expectations of the next WCC Assembly and beyond. Numbering thirty seven hierarchs, priests, university professors, lay men and women and youth, we were warmly welcomed by H. E. Metropolitan Nathanael of Kos and Nisyros at the opening session with the inauguration of a new hotel chapel in which all delegates participated, as well as local clergy, together with lay and local authorities. After an introduction of the aim of the consultation and theological reflections on the theme, concerns and hopes for the future by H. E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr. Gennadios of Sassima (Ecumenical Patriarchate) and a short introduction of all the participants, our group devoted numerous sessions to hearing from participants about the themes and sub-themes of the upcoming Assembly in Busan, "God of life, lead us to justice and peace." The themes raised in these presentations are summarized in the following sections of this statement.

3. Each working day started with prayer in the newly inaugurated chapel. A special moment of prayer took place on Saturday, October 13 by H. G. Bishop Hovagim Manoogian (Armenian Apostolic Church, Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin) at the announcement of the passing away of the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem Archbishop Torgom Manoogian. The fact that the meeting took place in Greece gave us the opportunity to visit local