

The 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches A General Presentation and Some Preliminary Remarks

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This article strives to make a general presentation on the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches which took place in Busan, Republic of South Korea, from the 30th October to the 8th November 2013, underlining the most important points of the agenda of this global ecumenical event. It also reviews two documents issued by the Assembly and published after this presentation: The Message of the WCC Assembly, entitled “Join the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace” and the so-called “Unity Statement” entitled “God’s Gift and Call to Unity - and Our Commitment”.

Keywords: 10th WCC Assembly; Final message of Busan Assembly; Unity statement.

Introduction

The 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) took place in Busan, Republic of South Korea, from the 30th October to the 8th November 2013 under the theme “God of Life lead us to justice and peace.” Having written several articles on the preparations for the Assembly in Busan¹, it is now

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¹ See God of Life lead us to Justice and Peace. An Orthodox Interpretation of the 10th World Council of Churches (WCC) Assembly Theme from Biblical Perspective, in *Teologia*, vol. XVII, nr. 1 (54), 2013, p. 11-20 - provides some reflection on the Assembly theme using mainly, but not exclusively, Biblical references; Das Motto der 10. Vollversammlung des Ökumenischen Rates der Kirchen im Vergleich zu vorangegangenen Versammlungsthemen und seine Aktualität innerhalb des gegenwärtigen ökumenischen Kontextes in *Ökumenische Rundschau* 62 (2/2013), p. 158-167. This article in German offers a comparison of the Busan Assembly theme with previous WCC Assembly themes; Orthodoxie und Ökumene im Blick auf die 10. Vollversammlung des Ökumenischen Rates der Kirchen (ÖRK) in Busan, Südkorea in *Revista teologică S.N.*, anul XXIII (95), 3, 2013, p. 179-188 - Presents the process of the election of Busan as an Assembly venue and the implications of this decision for the Orthodox Churches. It reflects also on the way in which the Orthodox Churches could play a role in the Busan Assembly, and formulated some expectations related with the Orthodox participation in it; “God of Life” by St. John Chrysostom and St. Augustine in *Teologia*, XVII, nr. 3 (56), 2013, p. 108-122 - This article is the attempt of a research of the Patristic perspectives that the Assembly theme might provide, using as starting points some of the writings of St. John Chrysostom and St. Augustine.