



# World Council of Churches

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H.B. Cardinal Louis Raphael I Sako

Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic  
Church of Babylon

Geneva, 2 July 2018

Your Beatitude,

It is with great joy that we received the blessed news of your ordination as a Cardinal by His Holiness Pope Francis. In the name of the World Council of Churches and its constituency I present to you our heartfelt congratulations. We rejoice with the Chaldean Church and with the people of the Middle East and of Iraq in particular of this important distinction of your spiritual and ecclesial leadership.

The World Council of Churches remains committed to work towards achieving sustainable peace and social cohesion in Iraq. Together with all the Iraqi ethnic, cultural and religious components, and especially with the leadership of eminent church leaders as Yourself, we hope to continue our pilgrimage of justice and peace. Today, and particularly in this region, religious leaders have a crucial role to play in speaking out firmly and promptly against intolerance, discrimination, violence, and to disseminate the common human values that unite us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Your Beatitude, for all your contributions in reflecting on mechanisms to promote the social responsibility of religious institutions with their various identities and doctrines in order to inculcate the concepts of citizenship on the basis of diversity, promotion of equality, freedom of religion and belief, and solidarity among religions, in order to emphasize the civilizational role of all Middle Eastern communities in building peace.

Your Beatitude, we pray with you, that our Almighty God give you the strength and wisdom so that you continue to carry the message of hope to your people, hope that together, with our differences, with our diverse religious and cultural identities, we can live and prosper in the Love and grace given to us by God our Lord, Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit  
General Secretary