



№

Antelias,

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS ARAM I,
ARMENIAN CHURCH - HOLY SEE OF CILICIA**

Dear participants to the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches,

We greet you warmly from the Catholicosate of Cilicia as you are convened in Busan for the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

The 10th Assembly is an important landmark, a time to harvest the fruits of more than half a century of ecumenical work and a time to set the framework for the way forward.

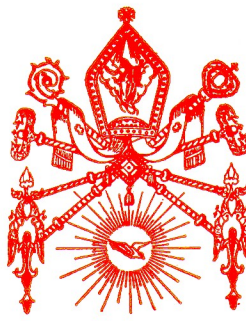
We vividly recall our involvement in the life and work of the World Council of Churches, and invite all of you to contribute to the ecumenical movement in general and the World Council of Churches in particular with renewed vision and firm commitment. Your gathering in South Korea brings to mind our memorable visit to Korea in 1999 as moderator, when we witnessed the difficult life of a divided Korean Peninsula and the vigor of our member churches.

The 10th Assembly's prayerful theme, "God of life, lead us to justice and peace," resonates deeply in our thoughts and feelings as we write to you from the Middle East, where Christians are courageously responding to the challenges of injustice and war as obedient witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ, encouraged by the words of the Prince of justice and peace: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12.32). For Christians and Muslims in the Middle East, coexistence has always been expressed through a dialogue of life aimed at justice and peace.

Life is a gift of God; it is also a God-given vocation to humanity. In our world today, however, life is destroyed daily by spiritual, physical, moral and environmental damage. Destroying life is a sin against God. Building awareness to protect life in all its aspects and expressions is integral to the church's mission and the way to justice and peace. Therefore, life, justice and peace are intertwined. True life implies justice and there can be no peace without justice. This holistic understanding is at the heart of the biblical teachings.

In 2015, we shall commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, which was perpetrated by Ottoman Turkey, and which today is still denied by the Republic of Turkey. We have asked the General Secretary, Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, to mark this tragic event and ask for the prayers and solidarity actions of member churches.

**ARMENIAN
CATHOLICOSATE
OF
CILICIA
ANTELIAS – LEBANON**



Nº

Antelias,

An Assembly of the World Council of Churches is a blessed occasion for prayer, celebration, reflection and deliberation. Protecting life, promoting justice and working for peace are at the core of the ecumenical vocation and missionary engagement of the church. This is, indeed the esse of being church and being ecumenical.

With these thoughts in mind we join you in your prayers, "God of life, lead us to justice and peace."

**Aram I
Catholicos of Cilicia**

4 November 2013
Antelias - Lebanon