

## PRESS BULLETIN

### regarding the 10<sup>th</sup> WCC General Assembly

From October 30 to November 8, 2013, the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) was held in Busan, Republic of Korea, on the theme “God of life, lead us to justice and peace”.

A delegation of the Church of Greece participated in the General Assembly, headed by the Most Rev. Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Messenia and comprising the following dignitaries as members: His Eminence Bishop Ioannis of Thermopylae, His Grace Bishop Gabriel of Diavleia, Very Rev. Archimandrite Ignatios Sotiriadis, Rev. Protopresbyter Adamantios Avgoustidis, Most Learned Mr Gheorghios Martzelos, Most Learned Mr Stylianos Tsobanidis, Most Learned Ms Marina Kolovopoulou, and the Honourable Ms Ækaterini Voulgari.

In this significant Inter-Christian event 345 Member Churches and Church-related organisations participated, witnesses to peace and justice were debated, and important messages of distress and hope were heard. Moreover, there was an exchange of experiences in view of the pursuit of unity between South and North Korea and WCC affirmed its solidarity with the people and the Churches of the Korean Peninsula as well as with all those who struggle so that justice and peace may be established. The proceedings of the General Assembly were completed with the election of the eight (8) new Presidents, the three (3) members of its Board, the twenty-three (23) members of the Executive Committee and the one-hundred-and-fifty members of the Central Committee.

His Beatitude John X, Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch and All the East and His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, were elected Presidents of WCC for the next eight (8) years, respectively succeeding in these posts His Beatitude Anastasios, Archbishop of Albania, and the late Patriarch Shenouda III of the Coptic Church. On the 150-person-strong Central Committee Orthodox Churches took up 27 posts (18%): from the Ecumenical Patriarchate H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima, H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Elpidophoros of Bursa and Prof. Dr Dimitra Koukoura of the Faculty of Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; from the Patriarchate of Alexandria H.E. Metropolitan Serafim of Zimbabwe; from the Church of Cyprus H.E. Metropolitan Dr Vasilios of Constantia - Ammohostos and Ms Sonia Tziouvanni; from the Church of Greece His Grace Bishop Gabriel of Diavleia, Chief Secretary of the Holy Synod, and Prof. Dr Marina Kolovopoulou, Lecturer of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Athens.

H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima was re-elected as Vice-Moderator of the Central Committee, the chief governing body of WCC, which is responsible for carrying out the policies adopted by the General Assembly, as well as for reviewing and supervising WCC programmes and adopting the budget of the Council. The aforementioned Hierarch was also elected to the 23-person-strong Executive Committee as its Vice-Moderator, along with the Very Rev. Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev (Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarchate of Moscow), the Most Learned Dr Audeh B. Quawas (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem) and HE Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste (Patriarchate of Romania).

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