



**GREETINGS AND OPENING
OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION
OF MIDDLE EAST CHURCHES**

Holy Monastery Kykko, September 30, 2008

Your Beatitudes, your Eminences, your Reverends, dear fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Every human being has to fight for the prevalence of peace, love and solidarity in our world because, as it is written in the Beatitudes <anybody who works for peace, will be called son of God>. This sentence defines clearly our responsibilities as Christians and mainly as representatives of Churches which live and act in the place where the Lord of peace and He Who is the Love, the Light and the Truth was borne and preached, has been sacrificed and glorified.

Yesterday's terroristic attack in Syria, the recent events in Lebanon, the martyrdom of people in Iraq and the occupation of the northern part of Cyprus by Turkish invading forces for the last 34 years, describe the reality which people face in every part of the world and in Middle East especially, in spite of the efforts suppressed by international organizations and the initiatives undertaken for peace and prosperity for people and nations. In this circumstances it is more than clear that only the Word of God can help human beings to understand and respect each other in an effective way.

The selection of the topics in discussion in this meeting is very successful and I would like to congratulate the organizers and especially the central organizing committee and of course Dr Guirguis Ibrahim Saleh, General Secretary of The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). It is however essential to return back to the belief and way of living of the ancient Church, because through this return the unity of Christians and the effective presence of local Churches in a world which faces a lot of social problems is guaranteed. In the fight for human rights for every inhabitant of our planet and for justice in our world, we must stand in the first rank, because this is a form of mission and diaconia . The dialogue with

organizations and especially with Muslim leaders of Middle East region is of course very useful and it can't be ignored.

Brothers and sisters,

Christians personally and Christian Churches are the light and the salt. Is our obligation therefore to confess our belief at anytime and everywhere and do our best to help for the solution of problems, human rights for all and peace in the world. Our role in Middle East is very important and our contribution in local affairs must be more and more effective. Peace in Palestine and Iraq, justice in Cyprus, better conditions for people who suffers by poverty and development of education are the main areas where we have to focus

We congratulate again the organizers of this meeting and we thank the historical Holy Monastery of Kykkos and its Abbot Metropolitan Nikiforos for their hospitality. We thank also the representative of Church of Cyprus in the Council of Middle East Churches Bishop Nicolaos of Amathunta and the Director of the Office of Interchurch Relations and European Affairs Bishop Gregorios of Mesaoria, for their contribution and we wish to all of you a pleasant stay in Cyprus. We open the works of the meeting and we pray to Virgin Mary of Kykkos to give us grace and enlightenment in order to have a fruitful work.

Archbishop of Cyprus
† Chrysostomos B'

Holy Archbishopric of Cyprus
30th of September 2008