



**Campaign Speech of Mr. Alejandro Kuri Pheres
WLCU 18th World Congress
Buenos Aires - Argentina
21 - 24 October 2014**

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is a great honor for me, to be considered on this occasion as a candidate to lead the future of our beloved institution. And this I owe it mainly to a person, the person that I wanted more and it was my guide during my life. **My father Anuar Kuri.**

He taught us, my brother and me, from a very small age, to love, to respect and to care for Lebanon. His teachings, always loving, motivated me and drove me to work for my Lebanese community from an early age and continue with the same energy.

He taught me, by example, the importance of the world Lebanese Cultural Union in the present and the future of Lebanon. With his clear and emotion-filled words explained me constantly that the only protection that Lebanon had was our beloved institution, as being a small country and located in a very conflictive area, its leaders and its people could not speak out to defend its territorial integrity, its sovereignty and its independence. **The taught me that the real strength of Lebanon is in its emigration.**

After more than 25 years of attending to all the conferences and global meetings with him, I learned of the ideas of great libanists as Natalio Chediak, Pedro Checa, Ismael Estefan, Charles Lotfi, Emilio Aroun Tame and Jorge Trabulsi and respected former Presidents of the Union such as Anise Garabet, Georges Bechara, Joe Baini, Elie Hakme, Eid Chedraui and our dear President Michel Douaihi.

I don't want to ignore anyone. In this quarter century I have worked with hundreds of intelligent people, generous and with great heart of which I bring a piece with me every day.

Working hard, in an efficient but discreet way, made me understood clearly what will be my line of work, in case of being favored with your vote and your trust.

I will work so that we continue to be an independent organization, representing the interests of all the descendants of Lebanese worldwide, no matter which is your country of residence, religion, economic status or their political affiliation.

It is well known by all that the enemies of Lebanon and emigration have constantly worked to undermine our resistance and divide us from the inside, creating sterile conflicts between brothers, causing boredom and deep doubts.

I firmly promise that I will work intensely over these 2 years to restore the cordiality and promote unity, based on the dialogue and firm commitments.



I would not be fair that after delivering our time, our resources and our hearts for so many years for a noble cause, we suffer the penalty of losing the friendship of some of our brothers in the fight. I will try during my term to integrate everybody in the daily work of the Union, taking into account all opinions and all points of view.

I have the firm conviction that intelligent coordinating efforts of the emigration will make front our goals more efficiently

My plan of action is based on 7 main lines

1. Create a solid global structure, based on the formal record of all persons and associations that compose it, in strict adherence to the statutes, while maintaining constant communication with all the regional councils and the subsidiaries through official channels, causing cohesion and togetherness.
2. honoring our quality of non-governmental organization, open a free way of dialogue with the Government of Lebanon, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will reaffirm our global representatively. Attend and keep our affiliation to the UN obtaining the most benefits for Lebanon and its people.
3. Achieve the economic independence of the ULCM through avant-garde mechanisms that foster the participation of more people from this burden to those who have traditionally assumed this responsibility.
4. Unify the press releases, digital portals and social networks giving the world a single face and a single message, giving an image of unity and professionalism, avoid creating confusion.
5. Decidedly support the efforts of youth, by encouraging their participation in decision-making. We will continue promoting the visit of groups of young people of all nationalities to Lebanon, the Organization of the contest of Miss Emigrant and the diffusion of the language and Lebanese culture between young generations.
6. Give impetus without precedent to the diffusion of culture and the Lebanese traditions through CELIBAL institution recently created in a very short time has managed to position itself based on work and creativity.
7. And finally, to promote tourist, cultural and commercial exchange between countries of emigration and Lebanon to help our motherland to regain the splendor of other times, causing an improvement in the Lebanese economy which is quickly reflected in a better quality of life for their inhabitants.



To end

I want to congratulate the great effort made by my brother Antoine Menassa during all these years in favor of the Union. I appreciate your professionalism and seriousness during the campaign and wish you much success in case of being elected, reiterating my vocation to work no matter who is in the lead.

In advance thank you for the affection of all those who have supported me during these months and offer that he never defraud the trust you have placed in me. It will work during these 2 years, honoring the memory of my father and that of many members of the union who gave their lives so that our institution and our Lebanon continue to live forever.

Thank you