

United Nations  Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL.: 1 (212) 963.2912 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4361

REFERENCE:

21 June 2013

My Dear Friends,

On behalf of the United Nations Department of Public Information, Non-Governmental Organizations Section, it is a distinct honour for me to congratulate the World Lebanese Cultural Union on the occasion of your fifth anniversary as an associated NGO.

For nearly five and a half decades the World Lebanese Cultural Union has been successfully endeavouring to promote the Lebanese culture to raise awareness of the Lebanese heritage in the Lebanese Diaspora and beyond.

While actively working with your compatriots around the world, you have also been fulfilling your role as an associated NGO in good standing with the United Nations Department of Public Information.

Since late 1950<sup>th</sup>, the World Lebanese Cultural Union has been committed to helping your brethren around the world, through a host of service programmes, by combating hunger, providing scholarships, and fighting poverty. Your agenda addresses all of the UN Millennium Development Goals: health, hunger, cleaner environment, and education.

The World Lebanese Cultural Union's relationship with the United Nations is a testament to the great achievements that can be attained when civil society works hand in hand with international organizations and other NGOs.

DPI remains committed to reaching out, engaging and educating non-governmental organizations, civil society and academia with the goal of building support for peace, development and human rights for all. The NGO Relations Section reaches out yearly to 10,000 members of civil society, most of who are volunteers, in mobilizing and motivating and assisting them to effectively become advocates for change.

The United Nations strongly believes in the substantial work civil society – especially youth – is doing on many issues and on many levels and we expect this trend will continue.

The NGO Relations, together with associated NGOs, articulate the UN's priorities and activities in order to raise public awareness and increase the support of civil society to the Organization.

As Chief of the DPI/NGO Relations, I invite the World Lebanese Cultural Union to play an active role in the work of DPI/NGO as well as the next UN DPI/NGO Conference. Let us work together to ensure a better, safer, and more secure world for future generations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the visit of Dr. Dr Nick Kahwaji, WLCU main representative to the DPI-UN, to New York and to thank him for the beautiful book and sculpture of one of my favourite icons Kahlil Gibran. I will retire from the UN but the UN will never retire from me and I can assure you that I will always be there for my great friends the NGOs.

Working together we have made a difference and you will always be in my hearts.

Warm regards,



Maria-Luisa Chávez  
Chief, DPI/NGO Relations