



September 28, 2015
Mexico City

All members of the World Lebanese Cultural Union

Dear brothers,

As you all know, over a year ago, I initiated direct talks with the groups led by Mr. Ahmad Nasser and Mr. Albert Matta, respectively; in order to eventually achieve a unification aimed towards ending more than 20 years of conflict, discomfort and confusion.

For over 12 months, with the authority given to me at the World Council meeting in Los Angeles in December 2015, later on ratified in Beirut in August 2015, with the assistance of our ongoing Dialogue Committee, formed mostly by former presidents of our Union, the unification project has been my main task. Meanwhile, I have been trying to keep up with other major priorities related to our institution that include:

1. Our association and participation at the works of the United Nations.
2. Our Websites and application for smart-phones
3. The Review and update of our bylaws
4. Updating our membership and the registration of affiliates and national and regional councils.
5. Conceiving a financial plan that achieves the economic autonomy of our union.
6. Strengthen our Youth Programs

The aim of my approach with the other groups has always been to convey something that I am convinced of. Only together, we can enjoy an organization that fully represents, without any doubt, the Lebanese emigration in the world, with sufficient capacity to coordinate with the Lebanese government without ever compromising its autonomy, i.e., the World Lebanese Cultural Union, the dream that was realized by our founding fathers, an institution of which we can all be proud.

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The other two groups have demonstrated a clear resistance to unification among themselves as a result of a great rivalry that has intensified in the aftermath of legal battles in courts, leading to irreconcilable differences. Still, we stretched our arms to both groups in an attempt to reach a common ground among us.

As Mr. Matta group unsuccessfully filed a lawsuit against our office in Beirut; we have achieved an advanced stage of normalization with Mr. Nasser group. I have met with Mr. Nasser in Belgium and Beirut and delegated our World Secretary General to deliver a positive message that was read during their council meeting held in Beirut last April. Mr. Nasser reciprocated by delegating his Central Secretary General to our World Council meeting held in Dbayeh last August. Furthermore, we have witnessed collaborated efforts during the visit of our youths to Lebanon this summer.

With this concrete progress, there was a big hope, and unification became within reach.

Our Dialogue Committee offered some provisions and concerns related to our objectives and legitimacy mainly: Our relationship with the Lebanese government, article 12, our independency, our association with the UN, our bylaws, merging of the chapters, all leading towards a unified World Conference under the auspices of the President of the Republic.

Most issues were subject to discussion, except the date and location of the unified World Conference. Unfortunately, the other group declined to agree on a joint conference in August, nor to defer their October Conference to any later date, a move that could have offered a common ground of legitimacy for both parties. In my opinion, unity is beneficial and rewarding to our union, and peace is more valuable than any obstacle. Although many of our members shared my view to proceed with the October compromise, there was a strong reluctance from other colleagues to do so.

In conclusion, I have chosen to maintain the unity of our Union and to avoid any breakdown that could lead to a major damage within our organization, and given that, at this period of time, the optimal conditions of reconciliation do not exist within our group nor within the other groups, I have decided to indefinitely suspend all actions aimed at achieving unification with any of the other groups.

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From this moment I will concentrate all my energies to try to meet the objectives that I mentioned earlier and finish my term with dignity during the works of the next World Congress in 2016, which date and location shall be decided by the World Council.

I deeply thank all those who believed in me and supported me during this process of unification. I am confident that all my actions were well intentioned, no hidden agendas that may jeopardize the autonomy, democracy and the legitimacy of our organization and no other purpose than to care for our dear Lebanon from abroad, ensuring its independence, territorial integrity and rights of its inhabitants.

I extend my gratitude to presidents Nasser and Matta and their teams for their cooperation; I believe that we have at least laid a good ground for a promising future, hoping for favorable conditions and other emerging opportunities to achieve one and only one Union.

Best regards,

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World President

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