

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

4 January 2022

To the Bahá'ís of the World

Dearly loved Friends,

We are at this moment with the company of the Continental Counsellors—the great majority of them present in the Holy Land, while some who could not travel here join from a distance—and the sixth and final day of their conference, focused on the upcoming Nine Year Plan, is about to conclude.

There is so much that could be shared with you about the spirit of this conference, as seen in its participants. *Steeped in experience, they have been eyewitnesses to the rise in capacity in the Bahá'í world, and they brim with confidence about what you can further accomplish.*

We could not have wished for a *keener, more insightful grasp* of what is called for in the next Plan than was demonstrated in the consultations of these *consecrated souls*.

But this, of course, is just the beginning. When the Counsellors return to the countries of five continents,

1. *they will bring* to you and those who serve with you all that they have absorbed.
2. *They and their auxiliaries will be at your side* as you prepare for this *immense collective enterprise*—especially through
 - a. your participation in the *wave of conferences soon to sweep across the globe*, where Bahá'u'lláh's *universal summons* to work for the betterment of the world will
 - b. *galvanize* the assembled *wellwishers of humanity*.

A *confluence of circumstances*

- ✓ *in the world* at large and
- ✓ *within the Faith*

has made **this a charged moment**. The global challenges now facing humanity are a *severe test of its willingness to*

- ✓ *put aside short-term self-interest and*
- ✓ *come to terms with this stark spiritual and moral reality:*

*there is but one, interconnected human family and it
shares one precious homeland.*

STEEPED

Immersed, deep

CAPACITY

The ability to receive or contain; the maximum amount that can be obtained; power of receiving impressions, knowledge, etc.; mental ability; actual or potential ability; quality or state of being susceptible to a given treatment or action.

BRIM

To be full;

CONFIDENCE

A belief or conviction that an outcome will be favorable. Belief in the certainty of something. Belief in the effectiveness of one's own abilities or in one's favorable acceptance by others; self-confidence.

CONSECRATED

Sacred, blessed, holy. To dedicate solemnly to a service or goal

COLLECTIVE ENTERPRISE

Industrious, systematic undertaking by the whole or aggregate

GALVANIZE

Electrify, to arouse to awareness or action, stimulate, excite

CHARGED

Electric, excite; rouse: to rush against in an attack

43 **At this same moment,**

- 44 1. the followers of Bahá'u'lláh are *examining anew the*
45 *possibilities before them* to release *the society-building*
46 *power of the Faith*. This Plan will test
47 ✓ their *stamina*,
48 ✓ their *willpower*, and
49 ✓ the *strength of their love* for those who dwell alongside them
50 2. They will *help to nurture, in every place, communities of*
51 *common purpose* *that recognize the power of unity*
52 a. to *heal*,
53 b. to *transcend*.
54

55 Within *these* communities, *every soul may find sanctuary,*
56 and in the friends' many endeavours

- 57 ✓ *for worship and praise*,
58 ✓ *for education*,
59 ✓ *for social transformation*,
60 ✓ *for the development of communities*—

61 *in all these, every soul may find room*
62 *to grow and to serve.*

63 **We are stirred by the promise of 'Abdu'l-Bahá:**

64 **“The small**

- 65 ✓ *shall be made great*, and

66 **the powerless**

- 67 ✓ *shall be given strength*;

68 **they that are of tender age**

- 69 ✓ *shall become the children of the Kingdom*, and

70 **those that have gone astray**

- 71 ✓ *shall be guided to their heavenly home.*”
72

73 When Bahá'u'lláh sent forth His glad tidings, the devoted believers
74 who could carry His message to humanity were so few in number.

75 *Today, praise be to God, the devotion of the friends is undimmed*
76 *and their numbers have soared.*

- 77 ✓ *May their hearts be fortified* through the power of His Word
78 and, on every occasion and in every space,
79 ✓ *may they shine with the light* of the splendours of heaven.

80 Such will be the *prayer* on our *tongues* and the *hope* in our *breasts*
81 when, today, with the Counsellors, we enter the Shrine of the
82 Blessed Beauty to supplicate on your behalf.
83

84 [signed: The Universal House of Justice]

CONFLUENCE

convergence, meeting, junction, *joining*, conflux

SOCIETY

the aggregate of people living together in a more or less ordered community; people, *mankind*

STAMINA

the ability to *sustain prolonged physical or mental effort*.

WILLPOWER

control exerted to do something or *restrain* impulses.

NURTURE

care for and *encourage* the growth or development of. Bring up, *care* for, *provide for*, take care of, *attend* to, *look after*, rear, support, raise, *foster*

TRANSCEND

be or *go beyond* the range or limits of (something abstract, typically a conceptual field or division). *rise above*, cut across

ENDEAVORS

try hard to do or achieve something. Try, *attempt*, venture, undertake, *aspire*, aim, seek, set out, *strive*, *struggle*

SANCTUARY

a place of *refuge* or *safety* haven, *harbor*, oasis, *shelter*

SOCIAL

relating to society or its organization; *communal*, community, *collective*, great, *group*, general,

TRANSFORMATION

a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance; *change*, *alteration*, modification, conversion, *revision*, variation, *metamorphosis*, evolution

FORTIFIED

provide (a place) with defensive works as *protection against attack*. Secure, *protect*, *surround*