



## DECLARATION

We, the undersigned, in our capacity as representatives of our organizations and in response to the invitation addressed to us by: the *Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy* (I.A.O.), the *Focolari's Centre "Uno", Together for Europe, Center of Ecumenical, Missiological and Environmental Studies "Metropolitan Panteleimon Papageorgiou"* (CEMES), *JC 2033 and the Orthodox Academy of Crete (OAC)*, as citizens of the world, who long for the unity of Christians and a future of fraternity for the world through principles and values based on the Gospel, met today December 14th 2022 in the Orthodox Academy of Crete (OAC).

This meeting was organized to express the desire and to explore the possibilities of celebrating together the year of 2025 as a turning point of Christianity, which influenced human history. This particular year will mark the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, while at the same time, the great celebration of Christianity, Easter, will coincide for all Christians.

We realized that by jointly promoting this significant anniversary, we remind the nations of the world that the Council's decisions have highlighted the values of Christianity, determined the life of the Church for centuries and today we are called to highlight the Cross and the Resurrection, as the center of the Christian faith and a call to hope of all people of good will.

In this modern world of anguish and need, the answers given by the fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea to the questions of the time, invite us to a new contemporary approach.

They also invite us to honor their wish and command that it be jointly celebrated by all Christians<sup>1</sup>.

During our meeting, we were given the opportunity to express our respect for all institutions of the Church of Christ, for every Christian Church, confession, or any Christian expression, and the service they provide to all humanity.

We also expressed our assurance that our intention to coordinate and undertake initiatives for the year 2025, would be independent of and complementary to their own initiatives, in which we would also hope to participate.

Finally we discussed proposals for specific activities pertaining to the anniversary and planned a strategy, that we can follow one by one through similar working groups at several levels, inviting other institutions and worldwide organizations to join this process of reconciliation and unity.

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1. *“The (1st) Ecumenical Council unanimously voted that the Church of Alexandria, as they were experienced in scientific knowledge, would announce to the Church of Rome annually the day of Easter, that this would be further announced (to the Western local Churches)” (Socrates, Eccl. Hist. V).*



Together for  
Europe

Center of Ecumenical, Missi-  
ological and Environmental  
Studies 'Metropolitan Pantelei-  
mon Papageorgiou' (CEMES)

