



Olavarría, June 11, 2020

PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION

Mr. Stephen J. Stanton

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Dear and distinguished compatriot,

Through this letter, the Board of Directors and all members of the Sociedad Libanesa de Socorros Mutuos de Olavarría wish to thank the words that you have so pleasantly and appreciably sent on your behalf and on behalf of the institution that you direct and represent. We also wish to express as special thank you to the Secretary General, Roger Joseph Hani, who starred in the video of greetings by the World Council of the WLCU.

These signs of appreciation and joy on your part have filled us with satisfaction and present evidence that we are on the right track with respect to the objectives we have set for ourselves as an institution. In critical times, where particular identities are being diluted and hegemony tries to impose itself on the ways of thinking and doing, we have doubled our effort to give value to that bridge that our ancestors tried to build and consolidate between their mother country and the country that hosted them. That Phoenician heritage is intact in the identification of origins.

Added to this are the subsequent cultures that populated the current territories of Lebanon -a strategic space between Europe and Asia, and a transit channel through the Mediterranean-, which allowed to build a unique and solid identity that has cemented the life of all Lebanese, including migrants and their descendants. That own cosmopolitan world is what characterizes us and, at the same time, distinguishes us from others.

Those of us who have had the opportunity to be in Lebanon have verified that we are inhabitants of the country *in absentia*, that we are counted as part of its population and

that the role of highest ambassadors is expected of us to support and spread "Lebanity". And with this we have committed ourselves for life.

We want to extend our thanks to Mr. Juan Saliba, vice president of the WLCU, who had active participation as a speaker in our virtual meeting of the Centennial and always, in the exercise of his position, has accompanied the invaluable efforts and activities of our association.

With the same hope of meeting one day,

Yours truly,

(Signed)

MARIA BELÉN VERGEL  
SECRETARY

(Signed)

FERNANDO M. BUGOSEN  
PRESIDENT