THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

26 November 2026

To the Bahá'ís of the World

Dearly loved Friends,

Ten years ago we wrote to you, the blessed community of the followers of the Greatest Name, to announce an increase in the number of members of the Auxiliary Boards at the start of a new term of their service. This institution, established by the Guardian and charged with the protection and propagation of the Faith, has continued to evolve over the past decade, always striving to strengthen the unity of the community and to buttress and harmonize the efforts of the friends in meeting the demands of the global Plans.

Now, the Bahá'í world is embarked on a new series of global Plans which aim at releasing the society-building power of the Faith in ever-greater measures. At the start of the Nine Year Plan we referred to the manifold capacities that, over the course of the series of Plans, the Bahá'í community would need to acquire. The efforts of the Auxiliary Board members, guided by the Counsellors, have been integral to supporting the growth of such capacities and their expression in action across the community's many areas of endeavour. In fulfilling their responsibilities, the members of the Boards, together with their assistants, work on many fronts and in a growing number of clusters—from those at the earliest stages of development to those where the activities embrace a significant proportion of a population. They raise aloft the banner of the teaching work. They collaborate closely with training institutes and Area Teaching Committees, as well as with Local Spiritual Assemblies. They stimulate and assist the community's efforts in social action. They accompany individuals and groups, offering loving counsel, providing practical advice, and reflecting with them on experience and guidance. Given the Board members' strong familiarity with the circumstances in various clusters, and their thorough grasp of what is required for the Cause to advance, they are often the first to ensure that what is being learned through experience reaches a wider circle of friends across adjoining clusters and within centres of intense activity. They remain alert to when new arrangements may be needed to support and sustain promising developments. They stand resolutely with the friends, helping them as they navigate the destructive forces confronting humanity and foster spiritual well-being. And, above all, they assist the believers to deepen their understanding of the provisions of the Covenant and fan the flame of the love of Bahá'u'lláh in all hearts.

As the community advances through a Plan that promises achievements of historic proportions, the Board members and their assistants will be called upon to address matters of ever-greater range and complexity, in more and more clusters. In this light, we have determined that a significant increase in the number of Auxiliary Board members is again necessary. We are pleased, therefore, to announce that as of today, the Day of the Covenant, the number of Board members worldwide is being raised by 270 to stand at a total of 1,404.

As these consecrated officers of the Faith, so dear to our hearts, begin a five-year term that will span the remaining years of the current Plan, we will beseech the Blessed Beauty at the Sacred Threshold that their endeavours in service to the community and towards the betterment of humankind may be met with a fresh outpouring of His favour and grace.

[signed: The Universal House of Justice]

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